

THE TIMES 1785-1985 Tomorrow Bright lights Reluctant cult author Jay McInerney discusses his bestseller on New York nightlife...

Portfolio Today's Times Portfolio competition prize will be £4,000, double the usual daily prize of £2,000...

Review to simplify civil law A £500,000 rethink of Britain's civil law, aimed at making it simpler, quicker and cheaper...

Threat to NUT Councils are being asked to consider ending the National Union of Teachers' over-protective trial-section dispersing schools...

Author dies James Hadley Chase, the British thriller writer best known for his three-filmed 'No Orchids for Miss Blandish' died, aged 78, in Geneva...

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Strategy 'in flux' as miners search for peace options

Militant miners' leaders confessed last night that their strike strategy is in a state of flux after the return to work of more than 3,000 men this week...

The 26-man executive committee of the National Union of Mineworkers meet in emergency session this morning to determine the next step after 11 months of strike action...

Mr Denis Murphy, president of the Northumbrian miners, 52 per cent of whom are now working, said: 'There is one item on the agenda if we want to meet the coal board. It is the situation in the industry...'

MacGregor 'to stay' after strike Mr Ian MacGregor, National Coal Board chairman, is expected by ministers to stay on after the pit strike ends until his three-year contract expires in September, 1986...

Reagan message of optimism to nation President Reagan celebrated his 74th birthday yesterday by delivering a State of the Union message which was brimming with optimism about the economy...

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Battle dress: Mr Michael Heseltine, wearing a combat jacket, at RAF Molesworth yesterday (Photograph: South Karadia)

Heseltine denounced over fence

The secret operation during Tuesday night to clear the RAF Molesworth cruise missile base in Cambridgeshire of nuclear demonstrators and to fence it was undertaken to avoid months of civil disobedience on the site...

Clash over release of Libya four

On the eve of the return to Britain of the four Britons detained in Libya, the Prime Minister and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, became involved in a wrangle over the credit for their release...

Palace to review royal warrants for cigarettes

Buckingham Palace is to review the policy of having royal warrants on cigarette packets, after the lung operation undergone last month by Princess Margaret, a heavy smoker...

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The mood of the soldiers reflected the uncertainty felt by many Israelis about what will happen after Sidon is abandoned. Arik, a tough-looking young private from the crack Golan Infantry Brigade, was one of the first to question Mr Peres...

Ministers seek broad powers to order sell-offs

The Government is planning to take sweeping powers under which ministers would be able to order the privatization of viable sections of the National Coal Board, the Post Office, British Rail and all regional water authorities...

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Local authorities may take NUT to court over industrial action

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

As a number of schools in England and Wales shut their gates at lunchtime yesterday because of industrial action over a 12.5 per cent pay claim by teachers, local authorities were being asked to consider taking legal action against the National Union of Teachers.

A letter was sent to all councils yesterday by the Local Authorities' Conditions of Service Advisory Board saying that education authorities might need to consider taking the NUT, the biggest teachers' union, to court to seek an injunction to stop the action or to claim damages.

The letter, a response to inquiries from local authorities, claims that the union does not have legal immunity for its industrial action because it has not held a secret ballot, as required by the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1984.

The union maintains that it does not need to because it is urging teachers to withdraw "goodwill" and to refuse to do duties traditionally considered

voluntary, such as covering for absent colleagues and attending parents' and staff meetings.

The Council for Local Education Authorities maintains that such duties are, in fact, contractual because in most places they have been done by custom and precedent.

That is why many authorities have informed teachers that pay will be deducted from those refusing to cover and attend the meetings.

Yesterday the number of authorities taking that tough line had grown to almost a third of the total.

Many of them are Labour controlled, such as South Tyneside, Bolton, Wakefield, St Helen's, Northamptonshire and Doncaster.

Conservative councils saying yesterday that they would dock teachers' pay were East Sussex, Oxfordshire, Hertfordshire, Hereford and Worcester, Cambridgeshire, Wiltshire and Brent.

These are in addition to the councils whose names were printed in *The Times* yesterday.

The letter to councils explained that they could be found

to have broken the law if the industrial action leads to children missing lessons. Parents may sue the council or seek damages.

Yesterday was the first day of action by the NUT. The effects were patchy. The union said that there were reports of children being sent home from schools in Carlisle and Coventry. There were also reports, in London and Bolton, of members of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, the second biggest union, joining in the NUT action.

Mr David Hammond, the deputy chief education officer of Birmingham, said that 30 schools, most primary, were affected by teachers withdrawing from lunchtime supervision.

In London, schools in Islington, Southwark, Greenwich and Camden, closed their gates at lunchtime.

Today head teachers will begin to record the names of teachers refusing to cover. That will enable authorities to dock money.

Tory MPs criticize water rate rises

The Government's demand for sharp water rate increases was challenged in the Commons yesterday by Tory backbenchers. The MPs who were asked to approve the increases today, supported the Thames Water Authority chairman, Mr Roy Watts, who challenged the Government's demand for a 10 per cent rise rather than the planned one of 3 per cent.

Mr Roger Sims (Chislehurst) asked the Minister of State for the Environment, Mr Ian Gow, why he had chosen to ignore Mr Watt's view that the government figures were hypothetical and unrealistic.

Mr Gow said that he regretted there was no agreement with Mr Watts about the basis on which a proper return on investment was calculated. Thames had been required to show a 0.5 per cent return this year, the lowest target for any water authority.

Mr Toby Jessel (Twickenham) asked why any financial return on capital was needed for a monopoly public utility, other than that required for outgo-

ings, future construction and repair, and repayment of debt over eight to ten years.

Mr Robert Hicks (Cornwall South-East) asked Mr Gow to explain the logic of the Government's strict anti-inflation policy and the deliberate imposition of increased water charges.

Mr Gow said that a 1 per cent increase in water charges added 100th of 1 per cent to the retail price index.

To Labour jeers he denied that a tax was being imposed on water.

Industries in London and the South-east face an estimated extra 8 per cent increase in water bills if the authority loses its fight to restrict this year's rise, (John Young writes).

Industrial consumers are normally billed on a metered basis, not the flat rate for domestic users, but their share of the burden would be, if anything, slightly higher.

The largest users include food manufacturers, breweries, chemical and pharmaceutical companies and paper mills.

WATER CHARGES (pence)	79-80	80-81	81-82	82-83	83-84	84-85
	Nat. av. charges per cu yd.	14.9	18.1	20.1	22.1	22.8
Thames	12.8	15.81	17.05	17.9	19.17	19.96
Nat. av. weekly bills	81	100	115	129	138	148

Source: Water Authorities Association

Pickets halt lorries at Daily Mail

The London editions of the *Daily Mail* failed to appear yesterday and there was doubt over today's issue as pickets belonging to the print union Sogat '82 continued to turn away newspaper lorries. An injunction taken out by the company was ignored.

More than 600 members of the union's clerical chapel (office branch) have been dismissed for taking action in sympathy with 18 colleagues who were dismissed last Thursday for holding a meeting in defiance of a management instruction.

The dispute centres on a claim for two-and-a-half hour reduction in the 32-hour week, a seventh week holiday and the equivalent of a 10 per cent pay rise. Management has offered £5.

It is understood that the company has some newsprint to produce a *Mail on Sunday*.

Drug offences in forces double

The number of members of the armed forces being convicted of drug offences has virtually doubled in the past five years.

Figures given by Mr John Stanley, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, in a written reply to the Commons show that in the first nine months of last year there were 259 convictions in the civil and military courts, compared to 153 in the whole of 1980.

Defence chief in cuts fear

Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall, Chief of the Defence Staff and the Government's top military adviser, acknowledged yesterday that the move to a policy of no real growth in defence spending from 1986 might lead to an actual fall in resources.

He told the House of Commons Defence Committee that there was a growing gap between Nato and the Warsaw Pact in areas such as air defence, and there had been "a quantum jump" in the Soviet Union's submarine capability.

A straight bat for Gadaffi

By Richard Dowden

Mr Salah Eddin Mahdi Msalam is like a man with a very small bat defending a very big wicket on a very sticky pitch. He is the Libyan representative in Britain.

Several of his predecessors were sent back to the pavilion for foul play, but Mr Msalam uses a very straight bat. He is a professional diplomat whose sole mission is to improve relations between Libya and Britain. If niceness could do that, he would have succeeded long ago.

His office is a tiny room in the medical section of the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Harley Street. Since Britain broke off diplomatic relations with Libya after the shooting of Woman Constable Yvonne Fletcher, the Saudis have represented Libya here.

Now he is to be allowed to move back into Libyan property, probably the former cultural section in Queens Gate. He will also be allowed more staff but they will still have to be outnumbered by Saudi officials, who will control the mission.

His problem is apparent as soon as one enters the front door. The hall is crowded with Libyans seeking assistance and Mr Msalam, with four staff, cannot cope.

"Libyans have been put in prison for more than a month and then deported without myself or the Saudi Arabians being informed," he said. "Students were threatened with deportation if their fees were not paid immediately and colleges were demanding payment in advance. The students come to us, you can see them waiting."

Britain has issued very few visas to Libyans wanting to come to Britain and the Home Office confirmed that there are about 350 applications pending. Mr Msalam said that those who only those seeking re-entry permits and that many more were waiting to come to Britain for business, or studies or tourism.

Extra staff will allow the Libyans to issue visas in London for Britons wanting to go to Libya and to process the documentation needed for business transactions between Libya and Britain. The clamp-down has disrupted Libyan trade and the constant flow of Libyans coming to Britain for medical, business and educational reasons.



Mr Msalam: Libya's man in London (Photograph Murray Job).

Mr Msalam's aim is to relieve that pressure and he says: "We hope to have a quiet period, not looking back in anger but establishing trust. The problem between Britain and Libya was misunderstanding. There has been a lot of anti-Libyan propaganda in the British media."

But ask Mr Msalam about Libya's policy towards exiled opponents of Colonel Gaddafi—the "stray dogs"—and he becomes nervous and consults his interpreter. "The Libyan people in the basic congresses have asked that Libyans who live out of Libya come back. They will be given full support. If they have any disagreement they should come and express it in the basic congresses, where there is freedom to say anything. If they refuse to come back and have a hostile attitude to Libya they should bear the consequences of their actions."

Offenders to compensate victims

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

Offenders are to make direct reparation to their victims in experiments to be funded by the Home Office, with a view to nationwide measures in a criminal justice Bill.

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, announced yesterday that a total of £100,000 a year, for two years, had been offered in grants to four projects in Wolverhampton, Cumbria, West Midlands and West Yorkshire.

The Cumbria scheme aims to develop existing arrangements for keeping juveniles out of the courts by exploring whether the offender and victim can reach agreement which is satisfactory from the victim's point of view.

If so, prosecution may be avoided and the juvenile will not be drawn into the criminal justice system, while the victim will also benefit.

Mr Lan Scott, Cumbria's chief probation officer, said yesterday that the sooner juveniles went to court, the sooner they started on a life of crime.

In Coventry, Mr Digby Stoneman, the senior probation officer in charge of community service, said mediation would be part of the project. "The victim would have an opportunity of making his or her feelings known to the offender."

Rees appears as Ponting witness

By Stewart Tiedler, Crime Reporter

Mr Merlyn Rees, a senior minister in the last Labour Government, yesterday told the jury trying Clive Ponting that he put a civil servant's accountability and truthfulness to Parliament "above all else".

He was appearing as a defence witness for Mr Ponting, who has pleaded not guilty to breaching the Official Secrets Act by passing two papers on the Belgrano incident to an MP.

Mr Rees told the Central Criminal Court he would not have agreed to appear if he thought the case involved a breach of security.

Mr Rees, a former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and Home Secretary, was among a number of witnesses for Mr Ponting yesterday. The defence heard a statement from Lord Rayner, a former government adviser and head of Marks and Spencer, praising Mr Ponting's work on Whitehall economics.

An academic expert in constitutional law told the court that there was a risk if Parliament were being given wrong information consistently. Professor Henry Wade, Master of Goddard and Caus College, Cambridge, said: "It is certainly true that the Government of the country could not

Pair 'owed £60,000 to bank'

A couple accused of trying to "swindle" an old woman in their care owed more than £60,000 to their bank, a jury was told yesterday.

Mr Edwin Brown, branch manager of Lloyds Bank at Westgate-on-Sea, Kent, told Maidstone Crown Court that the bank loaned money to Maxwell Tillings, aged 46, and his wife Mrs Sylvia Tillings, aged 39, of Cabin Court Lodge, Westgate, for the purchase of two properties.

The bank loaned £30,000 to enable them to buy Cabin Court Lodge which they converted into an old people's home and a hotel, The Pines, for which they borrowed £34,000.

The couple have denied deliberately giving drugs to Mrs Nora Kirby, aged 84, who once lived in High Street, Steyning, West Sussex.

They had been accused of persuading her to sign cheques for cash, together with papers authorizing £15,000 to be paid to them for the sale of her home, and to change her will.

The couple are also accused of offences concerning the payment of bills issued on behalf of another resident at Cabin Court Lodge, Mrs Ruby Garrard, aged 75.

Mr Lowther, a management accountant, denies the charges.

One in two return at Selby

By Peter Davenport

Fifty-three per cent of the miners employed in the showpiece Selby complex in Yorkshire, 841 men out of 1,572, had abandoned the strike by yesterday, the National Coal Board reported.

A board spokesman said: "We regard the 53 per cent figure as very significant. The men have shown their real feelings by their feet and we now expect many others to follow."

With an investment of £1,000 million to develop the six sites and the use of the most advanced technology, Selby is destined to be the most modern complex in Europe, a model of the mining industry of the future.

But the strike has had its effect putting back the completion date of 1988 by at least a year and causing the cancellation of an official opening ceremony that was to have been performed by the Queen.

On the eve of a meeting of the national executive of the National Union of Mineworkers, which is seen as crucial, the figures from Selby were a further blow to the union.

There were 100 new faces throughout Yorkshire yesterday, bringing the number of workers to 6,400, 13 per cent of the coalfield's workforce.

In the North-east 70 men went back, the board said. Altogether 307 miners had abandoned the strike yesterday.

In South Wales, the stronghold of the strike, an organized return without a settlement was one option being considered by the area miners as a way of breaking the deadlock.

A working miner's wife was called a whore and accused of having sexual intercourse with policemen who visited her home and another was telephoned with a message that her husband was dying in hospital after a heart attack.

The reports of harassment are told in a survey titled *Twenty-seven Miners at Work Tell Their Story* and published by Aims of Industry, the trade enterprise pressure group. It claims most non-strikers fear reprisals.

The miners' strike

Left 'preparing to ditch Scargill to preserve NUM'

By Craig Seton

Mr Roy Otley, who resigned from the National Union of Mineworkers' executive last October, predicted yesterday that the left-wing areas who had routed moderate opposition to a strike without a national ballot were preparing to pull the rug from under Mr Arthur Scargill, the union's president.

He also suggested that the executive might ask Mr Scargill to resign if the strike ended disastrously and split the union.

Mr Otley, who represented the power group, resigned after 18 years because Mr Scargill was not prepared to end his defiance of a High Court ruling.

Mr Otley, aged 60, wrote a book, *The Strike: An Insider's Story*, about the events and meetings leading to the start of the strike last March.

A miner since he was 15, Mr Otley said he had predicted in 1981 that a national strike ballot would not be carried and that a strike could split the union. He adds that at an executive meeting in last March a motion proposing that a national ballot should be held on a strike call was not put. A motion for area-by-area strikes had been carried by 21 votes to 3 and not, he said, unanimously as Mr Scargill had claimed.

"They routed the moderates completely," he said yesterday. "I forecast that at the end of the day the left-wing areas, particularly, would reach a stage where they had to lead their

men back to work rather than have them going back without the say-so of their leaders. They have got to retain their credibility and in my view they will pull the rug from under Arthur Scargill without any compunction and sacrifice him if necessary."

Mr Otley believed such a move without a national settlement could gather pace in South Wales, Scotland, Yorkshire and Kent where the strike had been most solid.

One executive member, not a left winger, said yesterday that Mr Otley should have had the guts to stand up and fight rather than resign and make money from his copious notetaking at what should have been a secret executive meeting.

Mr Otley responded: "I've always been open about my views but I was not going to kowtow. In any case, we were all constructed by our area executives. You are treading a tightrope."

He added that the strike, as he had predicted, had split the union.

"It is a tragedy and I believe at some time the executive could force Arthur Scargill to resign. After all, South Wales called for the resignation of Jack Jones (general secretary, Leicestershire) from the executive and that was carried by 13 votes to 12, although Jack did not go." *The Strike: An Insider's Story* (Published on March 6 by Sidgwick and Jackson, £7.95).

One in two return at Selby

Job losses threat if pit fire spreads

By Peter Davenport

By Ronald Faux

The National Union of Mineworkers in Scotland and the mine deputies union, Nacods attempted to settle their differences yesterday over work at the threatened Seafield colliery in Fife. The main production face at the colliery is at risk from fire and critical levels of carbon monoxide.

A decision on the future of the pit is expected in the next few hours. The National Coal Board in Scotland has given warning that if the face has to be sealed off, 300 jobs will be lost. The board has accused the NUM of refusing to allow Nacods men into the pit by setting up picket lines which the deputies refuse to cross.

Officials of Nacods said their men were allowed into the pit on the 4am shift but were picketed out later in the day.

As a result, men were working a 16-hour double shift and were physically wearing themselves out. They have asked the NUM to allow four more Nacods men into the Seafield complex to relieve the pressure on their members working away from the threatened face. The request is being considered by the NUM.

The miners insist that all requests from the board for men to fight at Seafield have been met and three shifts of 28 NUM members have been allowed below ground.

Since the pit strike started more than 11 months ago, 31 faces out of an original 493 have been lost as a direct result of the industrial action, the board claims. (Our Labour Reporter writes.) A further 15 coal faces are now in a serious condition and another 68 are "causing concern" it reported.

The NCB has a policy of no compulsory redundancy, but it has also given a warning that it cannot guarantee jobs if pits are lost because of the action. The mineworkers' union has consistently argued that the board has exaggerated the danger to underground workings and that where there has been a problem it has offered help, which has sometimes been turned down.

Hope for talks, page 12

Union retirements open way for new breed of leader

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Changes in the leadership of the trade union movement are likely to be the prelude to a period of intense politicking, with the new breed of union general secretaries seeking to assert themselves.

The announcement of the retirement of Mr David Bassett, general secretary of the General, Municipal, Boiler-makers and Allied Trades Union and a key figure in both wings of the labor movement, is the latest in a series of resignations which over a period of two years will see almost a quarter of the seats on the 51-strong TUC general council change hands.

Mr Bassett's chief role in the TUC was as chairman of the influential economic committee, a position that will be the subject of fierce contest after next September's TUC Congress in Blackpool. The chairmanship of the employment policy committee, held by

of individual committees are the influences which will bring about a significant change in the political and representative profile of the TUC's general council.

The younger trade union leaders tend to come from an academic, rather than industrial, background and represent white collar unions, many of which are involved in high technology rather than the traditional blue-collar constituency in the "dying industries".

Even in the old industries the younger leaders lean more toward the right than the left, although left wingers are mounting strong challenges in elections for general secretaries in several unions.

Mr Bassett's successor is unlikely to be far removed from the centrist position he has maintained in the movement. Mr Keys, regarded as a left winger, will be succeeded by Ms Brenda Dean, who is more to the right.

Mr Ron Todd, who will become general secretary of the

TGWU in July, is very much in the same left-wing mould as Mr Evans. The right wing's election machine in the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers will swing behind Mr Bill Jordan, a Midlands official, in the election to succeed Mr Terry Duffy as president, but the left are challenging through Mr John Tocher, a Manchester official of the union.

Other well-known figures that could disappear from the higher echelons of the union movement over the next year or two include train drivers' leader Mr Ray Buckton, who is thought to be in danger of losing his seat on the TUC general council in the September elections, and Mr Mick McGahery, the miners' vice-president, who could well be succeeded by Mr Peter Heathfield, the general secretary.

Three senior figures in the movement retired toward the end of last year, Mr Frank Chapple, of the electricians,

Mr Bill Sims, leader of the TUC, was adjourned until today.

The first two were firmly on the right while Mr Wade backed the left on some issues. Their successors, respectively Mr Eric Hammond, Mr Roy Evans and Mr Tony Dibbins, will not follow different policy lines from their predecessors.

Sale room Poetic Valentine purse goes for £176

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

All historic Valentine cards offered by Phillips, mostly dating from the nineteenth century found buyers yesterday. There were about 450 and they made £8.034.

The bidding demonstrated that romance is a serious matter. The joke cards were not much in demand while the ones with lace, clasped hands and poetic messages were fiercely competed for.

The lowest price was £16.50 (estimate £20-£40) for a hand coloured, mechanical Valentine of around 1870 with a gentleman raising his hat and the inscription: "This creature is willing to marry, can you resist the temptation? Why ladies do you tarry?" Humour apparently depressed the price and it was secured by a private collector, Mr B Lancaster, one of the main buyers.

The top price was for a romantic item of around 1827, a handcoloured puzzle purse at £176 (estimate £30-£60), which

went to the same private collector. It has a lovers' knot in the centre, four cherubs on clouds in the corners and various lines of verse.

In the main, however, private collectors were outbid by trade buyers. On the eve of the sale Phillips has received an instruction from Houston, Texas, to spend £3,000 at the discretion on cards for a print dealer called Elsa Ross. That accounted for a substantial slice of the sale.

Another significant buyer was Mrs J Molesworth, a Boston dealer. She secured a group of joke Valentines addressed to Bostonians around 1870 at modest prices, because of the humour.

The Times overseas selling prices: America \$28; Australia \$30; Canada \$28; Europe £16; Hong Kong \$40; India \$40; Japan \$40; New Zealand \$30; South Africa \$30; Singapore \$30; Spain \$30; Switzerland \$30; Taiwan \$30; Thailand \$30; USA \$30; Yugoslavia \$30.



Bassett Keys Evans Duffy Buckton McGahery Murray Chapple Sims Wade

Lord Hailsham launches £500,000 inquiry into system of civil justice

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A full-scale inquiry into the civil justice system in England and Wales, to bring about reforms that will cut delays, costs and the complexity of civil litigation, was launched by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, yesterday.

The £500,000 inquiry, to start at once, will be under the Lord Chancellor's direction but will use outside management consultants for fact-finding studies and be advised by an independent committee under the chairmanship of Sir Maurice Hodgson, chairman of British Home Stores.

Lord Hailsham said yesterday that the idea of using outsiders was to have "a totally new look at the old character of civil procedure".

In the past century there had been about fifty inquiries into the civil justice system but most had been conducted principally by lawyers and had not taken the form of a "complete rethink" of the system.

Apart from creating an advisory committee, a mixture of laymen and lawyers, the Lord Chancellor has effectively rejected the view, expressed at a

top-level seminar of 40 judges and lawyers last September, that the inquiry should not be conducted by his department.

Defending the decision yesterday, Lord Hailsham said: "There is a tendency on the part of my profession to think that litigation is something which should be left to the lawyers, just as there is among soldiers that military art should be left to the generals." There was also a view, he added, that "other people ought to have a say too".

But he emphasized that the inquiry was not a "vote of no confidence" either in lawyers or in the court system. There were delays and costs which were very high, he said. "But I genuinely believe that courts are the least delayed, most efficient judicial system in the world."

The review, expected to be finished in three years, with reforms implemented as each section is completed, will look in turn at each main area of civil law: personal injuries (to be taken first), small claims, debt, housing and commercial cases. Both the High Court and county court will be examined in terms of jurisdiction, procedure and court administration.

Family procedure, already the subject of another review under Mrs Justice Booth, will not be examined, nor chancery law, which was reviewed recently.

Lord Hailsham emphasized that only a small number of cases came to trial. In the High Court, about 200,000 writs were issued a year, of which only 2,000 came to trial. In the county courts two million cases were started a year and just under 300,000 came to trial. That was "a mark of good performance rather than bad", he said.

Now, the delay in county courts between the start of proceedings and trial in a contested case can be two-and-a-half years. On average it is 15 months. In the High Court, the delay can be eight years; on average it is two-and-a-half years.

The total administrative cost of civil business in 1983-84 was £101 million, with judicial costs totalling £22 million. The average cost for a party in High Court proceedings was £3,000.

Leading article, page 13



Buccaneering crew: Ted Toleman (left), Richard Branson and Chay Blyth yesterday.

Virgin powers Blue Riband challenge

By Robin Young

Britain is to challenge again for the Blue Riband speed record across the Atlantic.

The aim is to clip at least 15 hours off the 33-year-old record of the transatlantic liner United States. It completed the 2,949 miles from the Ambrose light vessel outside New York to the Bishop Rock light on the Isles

of Scilly at an average speed of 35.59 knots on her maiden voyage in July 1952.

The new contender is very different from the last British holder of the Blue Riband, the Cunard liner Queen Mary, which held the record from 1936-52.

The Virgin Atlantic Challenger, a 65-ft long catamaran with two 4,000 horsepower engines, with a crew of six.

The £1.5 million project was announced yesterday aboard the Virgin Atlantic Boeing 747 as it circled 1,000 ft above the finishing post. Virgin's owner, Mr Richard Branson, whose nautical experience has been limited to living on a canal boat, will be a fee-paying passenger on the Challenger this summer.

The skipper will be Mr Ted Toleman, world speed record holder for class one offshore power boats, whose company, Cougar Marine, is designing

and building the catamaran. The ship's number one will be Mr Chay Blyth, the yachtsman.

The Virgin Atlantic Challenger, designed to have a top speed of 55 knots, will refuel three times during the crossing. Icebergs en route are to be stained with dye to make them more visible.

Its average target speed is 45 knots, with a crossing time of 66 hours.



Model enterprise: Virgin Atlantic Challenger (Photographs: John Voos).

BLUE RIBAND TITLE HOLDERS

1827	Circeo	22 days
1838	Great Western	15 days
1852	Collins Pacific	9 days
1862	Scotia	8 days 22hrs
1869	City of Brussels	7 days
1891	Tauntonic	5 days 22hrs 3mins
1909	Lualaba	5 days 19hrs 21mins
1909	Mauretania	4 days 11hrs 42mins
1929	Bremen	10hrs 51mins
1933	Rex	4 days 14hrs 30mins
1935	Normandie	13hrs 8mins
1936	Queen Mary	4 days 27mins
1938	Queen Mary	3 days 3hrs 9mins
1952	United States	30hrs 42mins

Chance to insure against 'hackers'

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

Companies can now insure against the damage caused by "hackers", the skilled home-computer owners who breach the security of corporate computer systems. The insurance cover, launched yesterday in London by Wigglesworth (Insurance), compensates for a variety of accidental and intentional damages to files and tapes.

According to Dr Ken Wong, a computer systems expert who conducted a study on behalf of the insurers, British companies are also trying to guard themselves against loss or corruption of computer data at the hands of careless or disgruntled workers.

"Letters, accounts and production records which used to fill bulky files are now more vulnerable to erasure in the

hands of an army of workers and managers seeking to master 300 makes of computer from more than 2,000 UK suppliers", he said. "Spurious employees, local rednecks and unthinking computer operators could cause substantial damage to files."

Only 1.3 million home computers were sold in Britain last year, more than 20 per cent less than predicted, according to AGB Cable & Viewdata, a subsidiary of AGB Research. Its study concludes that there are 3.6 million homes with a total of four million computers in Britain.

Dixons, the retailing chain, paid Sinclair more than £1.7 million for equipment sold in its stores in recent weeks, a large proportion of it believed to be over the Christmas period.

Woman, 80, lived with 37 dogs

Thirty-seven dogs were yesterday rescued from the home of Miss Madeleine Hart, aged 80. She had lived at Old Tovil Road, Maidstone, without gas or electricity but used her weekly pension to feed her pets.

The RSPCA, a veterinary surgeon and council health officials moved the animals out after complaints of noise and smell from neighbours.

The council said: "We were forced to take action because the dogs had become a nuisance. They have been confined to the house for the past six months."

The council had served an abatement notice on Miss Hart and a nuisance order was made by magistrates. She was fined £10 but was not forced to pay.

Last night, 34 of the dogs, all poodles, were put down.

Dog days, page 10

10% unhappy with car servicing

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

One in ten car owners is "positively dissatisfied" with car servicing, revealing "a hard core of serious problems" among garages, the Consumers Association claimed yesterday.

But on the day that the association's magazine *Which?* published its latest survey of 17,000 motorists, The Motor Agents Association announced its own campaign to improve servicing. It has started by sending a booklet, *How to Achieve Customer Satisfaction in Vehicle Servicing and Repair*, to 13,000 garage members.

The association insisted yesterday that the timing was "purely coincidental". A spokesman said: "The booklet is the result of several months' work by a working party and has been welcomed by the Office of Fair Trading, which

was consulted in detail on its contents".

Each year *Which?* sends a questionnaire to 45,000 randomly-selected readers. This year 25,000 were returned and 17,000 gave details of their experiences with garages.

The magazine says that indicates that a car's reliability record has a big effect on servicing. Not one British car appears in the ten makes listed as having fewer than average problems, but six are Japanese - Colt, Daihatsu, Honda, Mazda, Nissan and Toyota. The remaining four places are taken by MBW and Mercedes of West Germany, and Saab and Volvo of Sweden.

Cars attracting more than average dissatisfaction were Austin Rover's Metro, Maestro and Rover SD1, and Ford's Escort and Sierra models.

The most common complaint, accounting for more than half the disputes with garages, was poor workmanship; 25 per cent related to unexpected large bills, and one in ten followed damage to the car while in the care of garages.

Somewhat surprisingly, serious disputes happened less with older cars.

Which? urges dissatisfied customers to persist with their claims through local trading standards offices, garage trade associations, the Institute of Arbitrators, and the County court.

In an open letter to garages it pleads: "Don't dismiss this report as you so often do as yet another witch-hunt. Our report simply reflects 17,000 motorists' experiences and they are your customers."

WHICH? CAR SERVICING SURVEY

	More satisfied than average	Average	Less satisfied than average
ALFA ROMEO	-	Alfasud	-
AUDI	Audi 80, new Audi 100	old Audi 100, Audi Coupe	Metro, Maestro
AUSTIN MORRIS	-	Mini, Allegro, Marina/Ital, Princess/Ambassador, Maxi	-
BMW	3-Series	2CV/Dyane, Visa, GS, GSA, CX	-
CITROEN	Mirage	-	-
COLT	Charlie	-	-
DAIHATSU	-	127, Panda, Uno, Strada, Mirafiori, Argent	-
FIAT	-	Escort (rwd), Capri, Granada	Fiesta, Escort (Fwd), Cortina, Sierra
FORD	-	Civic	-
HONDA	Accord, Quintet	Delta, Beta	-
LANCIA	-	Hatchback, Montrose/626 (rwd)	-
MAZDA	323	Sunny (Fwd), Violet	-
NISSAN/DATSUN	Micra, Cherry, Sunny (rwd), Stanza, Bluebird	-	-
PEUGEOT	-	104, 305	504, 505
RENAULT	-	4, 5, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 20, 30	18, Fuego
ROVER	99, 900	-	2000, 2300, 2600, 3500
SAAB	Estelle	-	-
SKODA	-	Samba, Sunbeam, Horizon, Avenger, Alpine/Solara	-
TALBOT	-	-	-
TOYOTA	Starlet, Teraco, Corolla (rwd), Celica	-	-
TRIUMPH	Accolaim	Dolomite	-
Vauxhall	-	Nova, Chevette, Astra, Cavalier	Carlton
VW	Polo	Golf, Passat, Scirocco	-
VOLVO	340, 240	-	-

Source: Consumers Association

Vauxhall and BL lead best sellers

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Vauxhall and BL's Austin Rover bounded ahead in the British new car market last month, both increasing their sales volume by 8 per cent against a year earlier. For BL it was the best January figure since 1979.

The news was not so good for Ford, however, which registered 37,854 sales, 17 per cent down on a year ago, to give it a market share of more than 24 per cent compared with 28 per cent in January 1984.

Vauxhall/Opel was in second place with sales of 32,682 and a market penetration of 20.84 per cent, and BL third with 30,113 sales. BL's market share of 19.2 per cent matches an average of

TOP TEN SELLERS: JAN

Vauxhall Cavalier	14,987
Ford Escort	12,735
Austin/MG Metro	10,588
Ford Sierra	8,837
Austin/MG Montego	8,291
Ford Fiesta	7,575
Vauxhall Nova	7,275
Vauxhall Astra	6,781
Ford Orion	5,774
Austin/MG Maestro	5,694

Source: Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders

19 per cent for the past five months. A spokesman said that, when compared with the company's 1984 total market share of 17.66 per cent it showed that Austin Rover was at last on an upward trend.

Total sales last month were 156,823, 3.1 per cent lower than a year earlier. The importers' share, including cars brought in

Explosives alert

Army bomb disposal experts yesterday partly buried, then exploded a load of nitro-glycerine after the village of Hipswell, North Yorkshire had been evacuated. Four cartons of the explosive were found in a garden shed near the village green. It had crystallized and bomb disposal men carried it away because it was too unstable to put in a vehicle.

DHSS in attempt to calm fears on Aids

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

The Department of Health and Social Security moved quickly yesterday in an effort to calm growing public fears about the risks of contracting the disease Aids. Its chief medical officer, Dr Donald Acheson, rebutted as "exaggerated" accounts of the illness and emphasized that it was still a rare disease.

Earlier yesterday the Home Office suspended all movement of inmates in and out of Chelmsford Prison, Essex, and a medical team will carry out investigations there today, after the death from Aids (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) of the jail's chaplain, the Rev Gregory Richards.

Concern has been increasing in the past few days among hospital, prison and laboratory staffs about the hazards of being in contact with victims of Aids.

Last night Dr Acheson said that of the 118 cases confirmed, 51 have died.

"It is not highly infectious in the same way as say smallpox used to be. You can't get it from sitting in the same room or sharing a meal with a person with Aids, since it is not transmitted by coughing or sneezing."

The main way in which the disease was transmitted was through sexual intercourse between male homosexuals.

The British Pregnancy Advisory Service announced it had started screening sperm donors to ensure Aids was not passed to women undergoing artificial insemination.

TV star weds

Marti Caine, aged 40, the comedienne, was married for the second time yesterday after an eight-week whirlwind romance. She married Ken Ives, aged 50, a television director, at the register office in Birmingham.

Recovery from DHSS industrial action.

We are making good progress in clearing the backlog of work following the ending of industrial action at our Newcastle computer centre.

We are grateful for your co-operation and patience. Please continue to help by not writing to Newcastle (unless you are paid 4 or 13 weekly and your circumstances change) or to the Child Benefit Centre, Washington. Only get in touch with your local social security office if you need urgent advice or payment or to report a change in your circumstances.

PENSIONS

Normal payment arrangements for pensions will be fully resumed as quickly as possible. Until this can be done, emergency payment arrangements will remain in operation as follows:

□ Until your new order book is available, the post office will continue to pay on your old book. We have started issuing new books but it will be June before all old books are replaced by new ones. So don't worry if the post office doesn't have yours before then.

You can find out when your new book will be available from posters displayed in most post offices. When the post office gives you your new book, tell them if you have missed any payment on your old book.

□ If you're receiving payment from your local social security office or by Girocheque from Newcastle, for example in place of payable orders normally issued by the Newcastle computer, you will continue to get payment on the due date until your usual method of payment is resumed. Newcastle has started issuing 4 or 13 weekly payable orders.

Payments by credit transfer to a bank or building society account are now being made normally.

CHILD BENEFIT

Normal payment arrangements for child benefit have been restored for most people and will be fully back to normal by early February.

Watch for further announcements, which will be made in the newspapers as necessary.

Clearance of demonstrators defended

DEFENCE

No responsible Government could countenance the frustration of the preparations for the deployment of cruise missiles by a small, unrepresentative minority and that was why the operation to clear the RAF Molesworth site in Cambridgeshire of trespassers and to fence it had taken place last night, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, said in a statement in the Commons.

Mr Denis Davies, chief Opposition spokesman on defence and disarmament, said the operation again demonstrated how heavily armed, insecure and intransigent the Secretary of State was when trying to deal with people whose only offence was their wish to protest peacefully against nuclear weapons.

Mr Heseltine said the Opposition's petty spite was from a party whose only cause for complaint was that they had been deprived of one more opportunity to support lawlessness.

Mr Heseltine said in his statement: The then Secretary of State for Defence announced on June 17, 1980, the Government's decision that Molesworth, a disused airfield in Cambridgeshire, had been selected as the second United Kingdom cruise-missile base.

The anti-nuclear protest groups have made clear their intention to engage in a systematic programme of deliberate delay and disruption, not excluding unlawful means, in order to prevent the start of the work which would have been quite wrong to allow such a protest to build up on Ministry of Defence land and to accept that the serious inconvenience of local people would continue.

I therefore directed that the necessary steps should be taken to end this as quickly as possible and with the least likelihood of danger to all concerned. To do so, it was necessary to act on a scale and speed in order to prevent the very serious problems which would have arisen from the reinforcement of the protesters that had been threatened.

This could have led to a major confrontation with all the risks that involved to both demonstrators and those responsible for the maintenance of law and order.

This operation began shortly before midnight last night with the arrival of Ministry of Defence police to clear the site of trespassers and to take control of it. The civil police were responsible for policing outside the site itself.

At the same time, 1,500 Royal Engineers began to fence off the whole site with concertina fencing. They are also providing a headline in *The Guardian* on Wednesday reading: "Right to reinvest capital may be eliminated by Government - councils face £5 billion building freeze".

Dr Keith Hampson (Leeds North West, C) had asked Mr Heseltine whether the press selectively quoting from leaked Government documents, but unless the minister knocked on the head the impression given in *The Guardian* that councils would not be eligible to use their own assets, there would be no incentive for them to sell assets, which was Government policy.

Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party, does that mean the figures in the report are showing a severe reduction in the number of new starts for house building in the private and public sectors?

Mr Heseltine said: These are not figures for the number of houses built, but the number of new starts for house building in the private and public sectors.

observation platforms and perimeter lighting which will assist the Ministry of Defence police in their continuing task of guarding the site.

In addition members of the Property Services Agency and civil contractors moved heavy equipment onto the site to begin the construction of a permanent wildfowl fence for which planning agreement has already been given.

This House reaffirmed in October 1983 its support for the Nato twin-track decision on intermediate range nuclear forces. The Government very much hopes that, now that the Soviet Union has returned to the negotiating table, it will be possible to make progress on the arms control front.

Mr Heseltine said that a decision approved by Parliament. No responsible Secretary of State for Defence, or Government, could countenance such preparations being frustrated by a small, unrepresentative minority within our society.

That is why the action I have described has been undertaken today. I have myself visited Molesworth this morning in order to pass on the Government's thanks to those concerned. The House will I know wish to join me in paying tribute to all those involved in ensuring that the major operation has proceeded so successfully.

Mr Davies said: The Secretary of State has no understanding of the civilized and humane way we in Britain try to deal with these problems. When he strutted around Molesworth morning in his flak jacket, did he realise he was not facing some wild Baader-Meinhof terrorist gang but a hundred British citizens, most of them Quakers with a long tradition of non-violent protest against the weapons of war?

How many troops were involved and what regiments did they represent? How many military police were involved? How many civilian workers were involved? Did he personally authorise this ridiculous operation? All he has done is sow a hundred dragon's teeth. The protest will not only go on but it will intensify because of this.

Mr Heseltine: What I have done is to secure the maintenance of law and order and the legitimate right of my department to use its own land for its own purposes. The determination we show in this country to live up to the law is wholly repugnant to the Opposition.

The peace protest groups had planned deliberately to frustrate the Government's intention to develop that base. There were widely advertised plans to lie in the path of equipment which was necessary to frustrate the contractors and stop as a brick by brick.

Had I acted with less despatch, they would have begun to implement those plans to call up additional resources from all over the country and we would have faced civil disobedience not for days or weeks but for months on that site.

He will have heard that 1,500 Royal Engineers were used to build the fence. Those who maintained the fence in 1985-86 by local authorities, he indicated that the present system was unsatisfactory and that he was embarking on discussions with local authority associations about the future.

He has had a useful meeting with the chairmen of the local authority associations. That article arises from a subsequent discussion between his officials and officers of the associations.

Mr Jeffrey Rooker, Opposition spokesman on housing and construction: Will the money prevent the deterioration of stock? Can he categorically say whether the proposal of the Secretary of State to cut to 20 per cent the amount local authorities can use will be in the order, or will it be a 20 per cent cut as forecast in *The Guardian*?

Mr Heseltine said: It is a matter of fact that the amount of money available for housing is less than it was in the 1970s.

McNamara: Nut to use a sledgehammer

law and order were the MoD police and the civil police.

Mr John Cartwright (Woolwich, SDF) said last night's events should be put into perspective. In a democracy protesters had a right to demonstrate against Government policy with which they disagreed, and the authorities were equally entitled to outlaw the demonstration. Was not that what happened last night?

Mr Heseltine said there was a legitimate opportunity for peaceful protest within certain understandable conventions. But a Secretary of State charged with maintaining the law had a positive duty to take all reasonable steps to minimize the force necessary to secure the Government's objective.

Mr Tony Bean (Cherfield, Lab), founder of the Gandhi principles of non violence - (Conservative interruptions) are highly respected all over the world. The transfer of British territory to an American president to make war from that base without the consent of Mr Heseltine, the Prime Minister or the House of Commons is not acceptable.

The decision to build a Berlin Wall around the camp, associated with Mr Heseltine's readiness to shoot those who might try to get into the camp, is an indication that the Government is prepared to use the full apparatus of the state to obliterate opposition to its policy.

Mr Heseltine said that if he had any apology to the House it was that he had so slavishly followed the conventions that Mr Benn had defected as a member of a Labour government. Mr Benn's defence policies had been broadly right then.

It was a matter of judgement whether the peace groups were respected throughout the world. But Britain was respected for her love of law and order and respect for parliamentary democracy.

Mr William Powell (Corby, C) said he and Mr John Major (Huntingdon, C), had received an increasing volume of protest from their constituents about the growth of criminal and anti-social behaviour by the campers from the Molesworth air base.

Mr Kevin McNamara (Hull North, Lab), an Opposition spokesman on defence and disarmament: More British troops are present at Molesworth than were used against the Argentinians at Goose Green. That is the extent of his victory. If ever a nut used a sledgehammer it was when Mr Heseltine acted.

When Labour returned to power it would rid the country of cruise, other nuclear weapons and nuclear bases.

Mr Heseltine said that no force had been used on any demonstrators because they had gone peacefully.

He said that the amount of money available for housing is less than it was in the 1970s.

Britain's commitment made clear to Spain

GIBRALTAR

There was no parallel between Gibraltar and the Falkland Islands, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, reporting on the outcome of his meeting yesterday in Geneva with Senor Moran, the Spanish Foreign Minister, about Gibraltar, told Mr Denis Healey, shadow Foreign Secretary, who had sought in the Commons to make a link between the two cases.

The two cases were, he explained, historically different, legally different, and constitutionally different. He said the result of the meeting on Gibraltar was good for Britain, good for Spain, and, above all, good for the people of Gibraltar who wished the Government was practical to resolve it.

The task ahead was to see that practical cooperation between Gibraltar and Spain developed in a way which would benefit both peoples and that Spain and the United Kingdom continued to manage their differences as befitted friends and allies.

Negotiations were aimed at overcoming all the differences between Britain and Gibraltar, and at promoting cooperation between Gibraltar and Spain over a wide range of matters, Spanish in Gibraltar and Gibraltar in Spain.

Mr Moran had raised the subject of sovereignty at the meeting and outlined informally some ideas on the subject. He said he would later make formal proposals. However, he also underlined the importance he attached to the intention and feelings of the Gibraltar people when dealing with this issue.

He must recognize that the continued existence of the island and opposition to it on the part of increased opposition, if there were any pressure from the Spanish side for early negotiations on this matter.

A strong democratic regime in Spain after many years, regime change is going to bring a new Community in the very near future, increases the importance of developing links at every level between Gibraltar and Spain.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: Spain is an ally in Nato and a prospective partner of the Community and has made it plain publicly they will pursue their claim by peaceful means. That is in total contrast to the position historically, geographically and constitutionally in relation to the Falkland Islands. Our position in relation to the Falkland Islands remains unchanged.

Sir Peter Baker (Blackpool South, C) said tourists and the dockyard were of prime importance to Gibraltar. It would be helpful if the Spaniards sent some ships for repair to the dockyard.

Sir Geoffrey Howe said the dockyard had got off to a good start in the last two months with 30 people employed and a substantial increase expected. A lot of boats were going through the dock.

Mr John Stokes (Halesowen and Stourbridge, C): Ordinary people are puzzled by these talks with Spain about Gibraltar. They say if we have no intention of recognizing sovereignty, why have talks at all?

Sir Geoffrey Howe said the question of sovereignty had been an issue for many years. The talks were aimed at improving relations between the two governments and create better conditions for Gibraltar.

Mr David Young (Bolton South East, Lab): Before we sink into a swamp of self-congratulation there are many serious worries amongst the people of Gibraltar that they believe they are being sold out through the back door economically. Is self-government an alternative?

MPs wade in on water charges

ENVIRONMENT

An early measure of the opposition which the Government can expect to its proposals for the rate of return on Thames Water Authority investment in higher charges for water was given during questions in the Commons. Conservative and Labour MPs joined in attacking the proposals.

Mr Roger Sims (Chislehurst, C) in raising the issue, asked: Why is Mr Gow choosing to ignore the view put forward by the chairman and the Thames Water Authority that the figures he uses as a reasonable return on assets are hypothetical and unrealistic? (Cheese).

Mr Gow: The most tangible asset return as at March 31 1984 are as certified in the accounts which were signed by the chairman and the director of finance and audited by Arthur Anderson and show assets at £4,425 million.

Mr Gow: I did not discuss that possibility. A reply on the subject was given by the Prime Minister last week.

Mr Gow: We are seeking higher returns for the water industry as a whole, including Thames. I want to join Mr Pivitt in paying tribute to Roy Watts (Interruptions).

Mr Gow: The dispute is about the rate of return which ought to be required on a current cost accounting basis. Mr Toby Jassal (Tewkesbury, C): Why is any financial return on capital needed for this public utility in a monopoly situation, beyond what is required for future construction, repair and replacement of the debt over a reasonable period of eight to 10 years.

Mr Gow: That assets in the public sector should earn a proper rate of return, in that respect we are following precisely the principles laid down by the Labour Party in its White Paper in 1978.

Mr Timothy Eggar (Enfield, North, C): When he met the chairman, did he discuss demarcation of Thames Water? The board is in favour of such a course of action. Can he agree with them that that objective?

Mr Gow: I did not discuss that possibility. A reply on the subject was given by the Prime Minister last week.

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Investment in environment

Mr John Cunnigham, chief Opposition spokesman on environment: We welcome the minister's confirmation that Mr Roy Watts has not only acted with courage, but within his terms of reference, unlike the minister who seems to be doing everything possible to exceed his limits on the chairman in imposing him, and overruling him in imposing a tax on consumers in the Thames area.

By normal accounting methods, it is the seventh most profitable business in the country. The current cost accounting methods the minister is seeking to impose are not widely employed in business and widely criticised by this Government as a naked tax on water consumers.

Mr Gow: It is strange that there should be this conversion of Dr Cunnigham. The orders which the Government will be presenting to Parliament tomorrow (Thursday) are the fourth and fifth orders laid before this House. The first three, which were made under section 29 of the Water Act 1973, were calculated on exactly the same basis of current cost accounting as are not used by the Labour Party.

On current cost accounting, I remain the House of the conclusions reached by Price Waterhouse and Co in their report in 1981 of the principle of current cost accounting. What they said was: "In our opinion, the current cost accounting which has been adopted by water authorities, is both soundly based and sensible."

Mr Robert Hicks (South East Cornwall, C): Can Mr Gow explain the logic of the Government on the one hand pursuing a strict anti-inflationary policy, and on the other deliberately superseding an increased scale of water charges on business and domestic consumers?

Mr Gow: I understand that point. The policy of the Government is to reduce inflation by a proper rate of return, earned by assets in the public sector.

A per cent increase in water charges adds 100th of a per cent to the retail price index. Merely the effect of water charges on the average household budget is modest. Water charges do not take into account when calculating the money that Mr Roy Watts has to pay to make sure that he is not oversteering.

Mr Gow: I shall do my utmost to persuade Mr Harris in the days to come. (Interruptions.) Mr Gerald Borenbaum (St Helens South, Lab): What the Government is doing is to impose a tax upon the users of water whether they are to receive their water in a cup of tea.

Mr Gow: I do not agree. The Government is imposing a tax on water. What we are requiring is a higher rate of return on the assets which are owned by the water authorities.

The consequence of that higher rate of return will be higher investment and also a reduction of borrowing. The latter is essential for the Government's economic policy.

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Late night Bills

Three Government Bills reached their remaining stages in the early hours of today.

They were the Shipbuilding Bill which extends redundancy schemes under the Shipbuilding (Redundancy Payments) Act 1978; the Milk (Cancellation of Production) Bill which brings in payments for those giving up milk production; and the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1971 and the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1972.

Talks on student unions

The Government considers reform is necessary to the present system of compulsory membership of students' unions and is consulting representatives of the Federation of Conservative Students for the abolition of the present system of compulsory membership of students' unions and its replacement by a system of voluntary membership.

The Earl of Sinton: The Government has noted these proposals which would require legislation to implement. It does not at present intend to introduce legislation for the purpose although the question of student union activity is under review.

The Government has sympathy with the aim underlying the federation's proposals of preventing a small and even unrepresentative group of students from determining student union policies and activities in the name of the whole student body.

The Government will be consulting higher education interests about what action it may be appropriate to take on the issue and in so doing will take these proposals into account.

Lady Cox: Can she explain the reasons for keeping a system which in which more than £40 million of public money every year is given to students' unions, many thousands of pounds of which is squandered on student union policies and activities with education, such as funding buses and coaches for demonstrations and donations to political causes such as funds for striking miners?

The Earl of Sinton: The Government has much sympathy with the question of Government reform. It is needed but it has no wish to involve itself directly in matters that have traditionally been regarded as the responsibility of universities, polytechnics and colleges. The Government will consider these institutions to ensure union policies and actions are properly representative of their membership.

As a result of the outcome of these questions on union policies and activities, whether further action may be appropriate.

Inquiry into local campaign spending

LOCAL FINANCE

A committee of inquiry has been established to report within a year, to consider various practices and procedures in local government. Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Environment, announced in a written statement. He said he had had talks with opposition parties and the local authority associations.

In view of growing public concern about the use made by local authorities of their discretionary powers to engage in overt political campaigning at public expense, Mr Jenkin said, he was asking the committee to submit an early interim report on this question.

The committee of four or five members will be chaired by Mr David Wildicombe QC. The other appointments will be made shortly.

Mr Jenkin said the terms of reference for the inquiry would be: "To inquire into practices and procedures governing the conduct of local authority business in Great Britain, with particular reference to: (A) The rights and responsibilities of elected members; (B) The respective roles of elected members and officers; and (C) The need to clarify the limits and conditions governing discretionary spending by local authorities."

And to make any necessary recommendations for strengthening the democratic process.

Within those terms of reference he was, inquiring the committee to pay particular attention to the following issues.

Ensuring proper accountability for decision-making to elected members and to the electorate generally; and examining possible ways of strengthening local democracy within the existing structure of local government.

Clarifying the status and role of party groups in decision-making. Ensuring the proper participation and accountability of individual elected members in the decision-making process.

Examining any problems of property which may arise from members' conflicts of interest, particularly where officers of one council serve as councillors of another.

Considering the merits of the development of full-time councillors and the related issues of the use of members' allowances, and the remuneration of councillors generally.

Reviewing the system of co-operation of non-elected members.

Improving officers' relationships, particularly in view of their legal and professional obligations, with

Rate capping orders moved

Without rate capping, Londoners would from next April have had to pay 7p in the pound more for the Greater London Council. The order would be the case. Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Environment, said in the Commons when moving the order imposing the rate capping proposals on the GLC. The Inner London Education Authority, Merseyside County Council and South Yorkshire County Council.

All four authorities could, he said, spend sensibly on services while remaining within the present limits in the order.

Mr Michael Forsyth (Sterling, C): Could he not act now against those authorities whose actions are nothing less than an attempt to allow extremists in their midst to soak their ratepayers to fund the miners, women's committees and everything which is trendy?

Mr Jenkin: These payments do raise complex questions of law and procedure, it would be wise for the Government to reach conclusions to have the impartial advice of men, and maybe women, of integrity on these difficult matters.

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£5 billion building freeze not on the table

A headline in *The Guardian* on Wednesday reading: "Right to reinvest capital may be eliminated by Government - councils face £5 billion building freeze". The article, described as "grossly misleading" by Sir George Young, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, when he answered questions in the Commons.

Dr Keith Hampson (Leeds North West, C) had asked Mr Heseltine whether the press selectively quoting from leaked Government documents, but unless the minister knocked on the head the impression given in *The Guardian* that councils would not be eligible to use their own assets, there would be no incentive for them to sell assets, which was Government policy.

Sir George Young: I have given that article. The headline in particular is grossly misleading. No such proposal is on the table.

Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party, does that mean the figures in the report are showing a severe reduction in the number of new starts for house building in the private and public sectors?

Mr Heseltine said: These are not figures for the number of houses built, but the number of new starts for house building in the private and public sectors.

Mr Timothy Eggar (Enfield, North, C): When he met the chairman, did he discuss demarcation of Thames Water? The board is in favour of such a course of action. Can he agree with them that that objective?

Link between voting and rate demands

Proposals to re-establish the link between rate demands and the ballot box are expected to be put forward later this year, Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Local Government, said in the Commons.

Mr Eric Forth (Mid Worcestershire, C) had asked if Mr Baker would hold out any hope for hard-pressed ratepayers by bringing forward proposals to reform the finance of local government to re-establish the connection between the vote and payment of taxes. Reform would also avoid the necessity for further rate caps.

Mr Baker: The relationship between rate demands and the ballot box has grown very thin. It is one of the matters I am looking at. I would hope to bring forward proposals, possibly later this year, for public discussion.

House improvements The Government's purpose was to try to ensure that resources from the public sector went to assist those people who could not afford to carry out house improvements and to those houses in the greatest need of repair.

Mr Ian Gow, Minister for Housing, and Construction, said in the Commons during questions.

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Mr Gow: I did not discuss that possibility. A reply on the subject was given by the Prime Minister last week.

Mr Gow: We are seeking higher returns for the water industry as a whole, including Thames. I want to join Mr Pivitt in paying tribute to Roy Watts (Interruptions).

Mr Gow: The dispute is about the rate of return which ought to be required on a current cost accounting basis. Mr Toby Jassal (Tewkesbury, C): Why is any financial return on capital needed for this public utility in a monopoly situation, beyond what is required for future construction, repair and replacement of the debt over a reasonable period of eight to 10 years.

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Judge attacks video piracy threat as 4 men sentenced

One of the biggest video piracy rackets in Britain was smashed when four men received prison sentences at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Mr Justice Hilliard, passing sentence said that in the year of the scheme video piracy in general had cost the film industry more than £70 million.

Video pirates had gained more than £100 million from their activities, backed by "organized crime", and almost every major film in this country was pirated by two syndicates.

They had both been smashed and since then the flow had been staunchly and hopefully the industry saved," he said.

Gulam Mustafi, aged 38, the brains behind the production of videos from the latest films stolen from cinemas, was jailed for a year, with a further nine months suspended, after a trial lasting three weeks.

Musafa, a television engineer of Bannockburn Road, Plumstead, south-east London, pleaded guilty to a £500,000 conspiracy to steal films, and was sentenced to three years and six months, with a further nine months suspended, after a trial lasting three weeks.

Sidney Lloyd, aged 57, a projectionist at the Odeon cinema, Barking, east London,

Soares deputy agrees to stay

From Marthe de la Cal Lisbon

Senhor Carlos Mota Pinto, Portugal's Deputy Prime Minister, met Dr Mario Soares, the Prime Minister, yesterday after resigning as leader of the Social Democratic Party to discuss the effect it would have on coalition Government.

The minister also offered to give up his Cabinet post, but Dr Soares said there would be no change until the party had chosen a new chief. The resignation would not affect the coalition. "All of the Social Democrats want the coalition to stand," Dr Soares said.

Senhor Mota Pinto left the party after he failed to get a strong vote of confidence in the national council meeting last weekend. He had hoped to win up to the return of the party and a mandate to carry out his policies in the party and Government. He is opposed by three factions within the party.

The main question dividing the Social Democrats is the choice candidate for this year's presidential elections. After his party voted recently not to support Dr Soares for President, Senhor Mota Pinto supported General Fernando Miguel, a well-known military figure. Other social democratic leaders favour a civilian candidate.

Another dividing factor is the lack of support for remaining in the coalition with the Socialists. A new agreement signed a month ago did not settle the issue.

The Social Democratic Party has been beset by political infighting since it was founded in 1974 after the revolution. Breakaway parties have been formed by dissidents. The Social Democratic Prime Minister, Dr Francisco Pinto Balsemão, was forced to resign after lack of support from the party.

This led to the break-up of the alliance government of Christian Democrats and Social Democrats, followed by general elections which brought the present Government to power.

There are several candidates ready to step into Senhor Mota Pinto's position. Prominent among them is former Minister of Finance, Senhor João Salgueiro, under whose policies Portugal ran up AS3.2 billion (£2.8 billion) balance of payments deficit which is being corrected by the present administration with a severe austerity programme.

PLEA FOR BACKING: Senhor Mota Pinto had appealed for support after criticism from party rebels opposed to economic policies (Reuter reports).

The party executive also said it would present its resignation at a council meeting on Saturday. Sources said the meeting was expected to appoint a caretaker executive and call a national congress in March to elect a new leader.



Manhandled: Plain-clothes police drag away a Seoul protester.

200 students arrested in Seoul

From David Watts, Seoul

Police are holding more than 200 students after the most serious clashes so far in the run-up to the return of Mr Kim Dae Jung and the elections which follow.

A group of about 1,500 protesters marched through Seoul calling on President Chun Doo Hwan to release students and workers held after previous protests against the regime.

"Don't destroy freedom," the students shouted as riot police mobilized to quell them.

Most came from a loosely organized group called the National Conference for Democracy, which encompasses students, workers and church people.

Protests are gathering steam as next week's elections approach. Party rallies have been attended by surprisingly large numbers, mostly opposition supporters much to the Government's chagrin.

The Korean press has been unusually forthright in reporting election incidents and this morning's newspapers carried front-page pictures of an incident in which ammonia dissolved in water was thrown in the face of a candidate addressing an election rally in Seoul.

The candidate, Mr Huh Chung Ill of the ruling Democratic Justice Party, was not seriously injured.

Drab green buses, their windows covered with wire, signalled the presence of riot police at almost every main intersection in Seoul. They rushed into action at the least provocation. Yesterday afternoon just a few young people shouting slogans near the office of one of the country's leading newspapers, *Dong A Ilbo*, was enough to have the police firing tear gas at shoppers scattered in all directions.

The arrival of Mr Kim Dae Jung tomorrow, after some five years of voluntary exile in the U.S. is adding to the excitement of those who think his arrival will herald a loosening of the tight control President Chun maintains through the Army.

Tamils aim to cut supply line by helicopter attacks

From Michael Hamlyn, Colombo

Tamil extremists in northern Sri Lanka fired a rocket-propelled grenade at an Air Force helicopter landing at a military base in Jaffna yesterday. The rocket missed and exploded harmlessly.

The incident, although no-one was hurt, was significant for two reasons. First, because it marked the beginning of an apparently serious attempt by the militants demanding a separate Tamil state in the north and east of the island to restrict air supplies to security forces in the north. Secondly, because of what happens next.

It was the second reported attempt to shoot down a plane landing in the north. A few days ago another aircraft said it had been shot at close to Palali airport, this time by small-arms fire. Again no-one was hurt, and the claim by the separatists that they had shot down the plane with a rocket was denied by the authorities, who rejected a rocket could have been involved because there was no later explosion.

The rebels have, however, managed to prevent rail traffic to the north by dynamiting the track and blasting a train in which many Sri Lankan security forces were killed.

Official sources have admitted 28 deaths but some observers believe there were more and that the figures have been played down to reduce the possibility of a further spasm of inter-communal violence in the south, such as followed the killing of 13 soldiers in July 1983.

Lorry traffic to the north has also been attacked with some regularity by the rebels who have admitted carrying out hit-and-run raids against isolated targets.

There are rumours of a serious incident involving a lorry last week, but because of the censorship imposed on news of terrorist attacks, no confirmation has been available and no denial has been received.

After yesterday's rocket raid near the camp of Gurunagar, troops roared out to try to catch the culprits and began firing apparently indiscriminately.

One report said two people were killed and one seriously hurt; another said three were killed; a third said four, or six, people died. Since censorship was also immediately imposed on the local press it has been impossible to obtain any official account.

This is what happens almost inevitably after any terrorist incident: there is an instant reaction from the armed forces in which a number of innocent citizens are killed. The deaths are sometimes described in official statements as the killing of terrorists, but often even this rationalization is not resorted to.

Some senior government officials are known to be profoundly embarrassed by the behaviour of the armed forces and are urging minister to take disciplinary action against the soldiers involved.

"You will be doing us a great service," one official told me, "if you can expose the human rights violations in the north."

Ministers fear, however, that if they do not give the troops a fairly free hand, they may run the risk of a military coup. This fear has been expressed to me in the past by no less than President Jayewardene, a view he has also passed on to diplomats here.

Nevertheless, the draconian measures recently adopted appear to have had some effect in damping down rebel activities. There have been fewer incidents in the areas where extreme measures have been taken.

In past weeks, there has been rather more guerrilla activity in the eastern province round the Tamil majority town of Batticaloa.

As part of the new security measures after the aircraft incident at Palali, more than 600 people have been cleared from houses close the airport.

Car bomb shown to jury

A home-made, booby-trap car bomb which severely injured Mrs Margaret Backhouse, a farmers' wife, was shown to a jury yesterday. Bristol Crown Court heard that most of it was rebuilt by Dr Alexander Grant, a forensic scientist, from fragments recovered from the debris of her Volvo saloon after she triggered off an explosion last April by switching on the ignition.

Shotgun cartridge pellets were inside the four-inch device hidden under the driver's seat. Dr Grant produced two-thirds of a pound of shot, most of it recovered by doctors who treated Mrs Backhouse, aged 37 at Frenchay Hospital, near Bristol.

Dr Grant said the device was like a very short-barrelled shotgun which had been aimed upwards through the driver's seat. "The device could have been assembled specifically as a fragmentation bomb, with a brittle metal collar which could fragment easily."

Graham Backhouse, aged 43, of Widdon Hill Farm, Horton, near Bristol, has denied the attempted murder of his wife with a bomb to claim £100,000 insurance.

The hearing continues today.

Arts grants well below inflation

By David Hewson Arts Correspondent

The Arts Council confirmed the worst fears of the four national arts companies yesterday by pegging their state grants to an increase of 1.9 per cent, well below inflation.

The decision was received angrily by the National Theatre, the Royal Opera House, and the English National Opera. The other national group, the Royal Shakespeare Company, said earlier this week that the move would force it to concentrate on reviving commercial productions during the coming year.

The National Theatre's director, Sir Peter Hall, will outline the effects on his company today, and has already hinted that they might include the closure of the small Cottesloe stage, ENO, which is in a dire financial predicament after an unsuccessful American tour, is also expected to comment on the decision today.

Regional Arts Associations will receive an increase of only 2 per cent, their funds.

Mr Lark Rimer, the council's secretary general, said yesterday that the body was "painfully aware" that the increase was far from adequate.

"The minimal increase in our grant-in-aid from the Government prevents us from passing on to these vital organizations a grant which meets the cost of inflation."

Arts Council settlements 1985-86: National Companies (1.9 per cent increase): National Theatre £6,705,200; Royal Shakespeare Company £4,977,000; Royal Opera House (including Royal Ballet and Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet) £12,693,000; English National Opera £6,034,500.

"Extra" money will be made available for:

Regional Arts Associations: Eastern £791,000; East Midlands £929,000; Greater London £1,557,500; Lincolnshire and Humberside £253,000; Merseyside £572,500; Northern £1,891,800; North West £972,400; South £700,000; South East £594,000; South West £934,500; West Midlands £1,145,000; Yorkshire £795,000.

Car bomb shown to jury

Zahoor Ahmed, aged 19, unemployed, of Marlborough Road, Small Heath, Birmingham, was remanded in custody for a week, at Birmingham Magistrates' Court yesterday.

The hearing was held at a supermarket in Coventry Road, Small Heath, with intent to endanger the lives of people living near it. The bodies of two unidentified men were recovered from rubble after the blast on Sunday.

DJ's return

Noel Edmonds, aged 37, the disc jockey, is returning to Radio One's Breakfast Show next week after a seven-year absence. He will stand in for a week when Mike Reid, the regular presenter, takes a holiday.

Manila police in drive to end child prostitution

From Keith Dalton, Manila

Organized gangs abduct dozens of teenage girls every month from outlying Philippine islands and take them to Manila where they are bought by brothel owners to become child prostitutes, police said yesterday.

Girls are locked in sleazy hotel rooms and sometimes chained to their beds and forced to have sex with clients, Colonel Vinasoro said.

Colonel Vinasoro leads "Task Force Hooker" which netted more than 100 suspected child prostitutes last weekend.

The task force has been enforcing a 9pm curfew imposed last month for children aged under 18 found loitering in Manila's red-light district.

A Bill was introduced in the National Assembly last week imposing stiffer penalties for people convicted of sexually exploiting children. A maximum 10-year jail term is proposed.

Edna Morales, aged 14, was an obvious choice for a gang which - on the day the Bill was introduced - kidnapped her and four friends as they played outside a school in Hinganban on Sausar Island, 320 miles south-east of Manila.

"As a stopped and eight people, including five women,

Fatigued Karpov puts off 48th chess game

Moscow (AFP) - The next game of the world chess championship was postponed for a third time, yesterday amid reports that the titleholder, Anatoly Karpov, was in a "psychological crisis" as the record-breaking series prepares to enter its sixth month.

The 48th game of the competition between Karpov and fellow Soviet challenger Gary Kasparov has been postponed until tomorrow at Karpov's request, the referee, Svetozar Gligoric of Yugoslavia, said.

Reports circulating here said that Karpov, aged 33 and world champion since 1975, was increasingly fatigued by the apparently unending tournament and had taken it badly when Kasparov won the 47th game to reduce his lead to 5-2.

The game was first scheduled for last Friday, but was put back to Monday after the decision of the organizers to move the competition to the Hotel Sport in the Moscow suburb because of the mounting expense of staging the event in Moscow's Hall of Columns.

The game was then rearranged for yesterday, because arrangements for the transfer were incomplete.

Pope hails harmony of Trinidad

From Jeremy Taylor Port of Spain, Trinidad

The Pope ended his gruelling Latin American journey with a seven-hour stopover in Trinidad and Tobago on Tuesday night, his first visit to the English-speaking Caribbean. His trip covered Venezuela, Ecuador and Peru.

Looking tired but apparently relieved at the absence of liberation theologians and guerrillas, the Pope said at Trinidad airport: "I want to tell you of my admiration for the way in which people of different races, religions and traditions live together in harmony in your country. While so many places in the world suffer tragic conflicts due to bigotry and prejudice, you are a sign of hope."

Undeterred by persistent rain, a crowd of more than 35,000 in the National Sports Stadium here greeted the Pope with a euphoric chorus in calypso rhythm "Raise your hands if you love the Pope", echoing a popular hit of this month's carnival season. "Raise your hands if you want to jam."

In his sermon during the open-air Mass the Pope recalled the successful evangelization process in Trinidad, which began inauspiciously in 1513 with the killing of two missionaries, whom the island's original Amerindian inhabitants suspected of links with Spanish slave raiders.

ROME: The Pope arrived back here yesterday afternoon (Reuter reports).



Crowning experience: The Pope trying on a feathered hat from the Amazon jungle during his Peru visit.

Nicaragua asks Howe for backing

By Colin Harding

Vice-President Sergio Ramirez of Nicaragua asked Britain yesterday to prevail upon Washington to resume negotiations with Managua on a peaceful settlement of their differences.

The United States last month broke off discussions with Nicaragua that had been going on for several months in the Mexican port of Manzanillo, and also rejected the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice in The Hague to hear a Nicaraguan complaint of aggression by the United States.

Dr Ramirez spent an hour with Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, on the first day of a four-day visit to Britain. He will repeat his request to Mrs Margaret Thatcher on Friday morning.

His programme also includes meetings with Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie. On Sunday he will be in the Irish Republic for talks with Dr Garret FitzGerald, the Prime Minister.

Nicaragua is anxious to enlist West European support for a negotiated solution to the conflict in Central America, on the basis of the draft agreement drawn up last September by the Contadora Group of Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama.

Dr Ramirez said Nicaragua would be prepared to discuss the other Central American countries' demands for tighter verification procedures covering the withdrawal of foreign military advisers from the region.

Oxford debate, page 12

Jobless offenders face prison, MPs say

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Nearly all unemployed offenders appearing before the courts will become ineligible for probation or bail hostels as a result of government proposals to change the systems of payment for accommodation, according to the Parliamentary All-Party Home Affairs Group.

A letter to Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, says: "If such hostels are unavailable for most of those appearing before the courts, magistrates and judges will be faced with the choice of either releasing such offenders on to the streets or imprisoning them, thereby increasing the burden on our grossly overcrowded prisons system."

The letter is from Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Knowsley, North, the group chairman. He calculated that nearly four out of every five unemployed offenders appearing before the courts will be ineligible for a probation hostel, which is not a full-time residential facility.

The effect will be, according to Mr Kilroy-Silk, that courts will be unable to sentence an unemployed offender to a probation hostel unless he or she has previously had an address within the same local DHSS office area.

Vietnamese shells force 3,000 Thais to flee

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

Vietnamese shelling from inside Cambodia forced 3,000 Thai villagers to shelter yesterday in bunkers and holes in the ground. More than 200 children were evacuated from four schools south of the Thai border town of Aranyaprathet.

No casualties were reported, but the incident has increased tension on the border where it is feared serious fighting could break out between Thai and Vietnamese forces.

At least 42 Vietnamese soldiers have been killed in clashes with Thai troops inside Thailand in the past two weeks, according to the Thai Army. Both sides have also exchanged cross-border artillery bombardments.

The Vietnamese cross the border in attempts to outflank Cambodian guerrillas and prevent their escape into Thailand. Squadron Leader Prising Soon-siri, the Thai national security chief, said clashes with the Vietnamese were inevitable as the only way they could rout the rebels was to get behind them from Thai territory.

The Thai Government yesterday summoned the Soviet Ambassador to the Foreign Ministry here. He was advised of Thailand's growing concern about the situation.

A senior Thai official told him that the stability of South-East Asia was at risk, and that Vietnam had been able to stay in Cambodia for the past six years only because of Soviet support.

Swedish MPs attempt to oust minister

Stockholm (Reuter) - Sweden's three opposition parties yesterday proposed a vote of no confidence in Mr Lennart Bodstrom, the Foreign Minister, over remarks he made casting doubt on military reports of foreign submarine violations of Swedish waters.

Mr Ulf Adelsohn, the Conservative Party leader, proposed the motion, signed by 36 opposition MPs, which is likely to be put to the vote in the next few days. But it is virtually certain to be defeated as the ruling Social Democrats have a majority in Parliament.

Political sources said the tabling of a motion of no confidence in a minister, for only the second time since the procedure was introduced in the 1970s was a serious setback for the Government, which faces an election on September 15.

Clashes in Santo Domingo

Santo Domingo (Reuter) - Troops patrolled the Dominican Republic's capital of Santo Domingo yesterday after strikes and violent clashes in which two people were killed and scores of arrests made as a one-day general strike took hold.

Left-wing opposition groups

Trimbole freed from jail

Robert Trimbole, aged 53, an Australian with suspected Mafia links was freed from Dublin's Mountjoy Prison yesterday less than two hours after his release was approved by the Irish Supreme Court.

A High Court judge in Dublin directed that he should be released after finding that his continued detention was invalid. His release had been delayed for 24 hours after intervention by state lawyers, but yesterday five judges unanimously ruled they had no power to order a further delay.

Mr Trimbole was arrested in Dublin last October and has been held in high security conditions at Mountjoy because of fears that his one-time Mafia colleagues had put out a contract on his life.

They were reported to believe that Mr Trimbole might pass on to the police information about their activities in a number of countries, including Britain.

Southern Africa goes sour on Pretoria

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

As a long-time advocate of dialogue with South Africa, he appears to feel let down personally by the stalemate.

In Luanda, President Dos Santos asserted last Monday that the Unita rebel movement was an "integral part" of the South African Army, and claimed Pretoria was pursuing a "vast destabilization plan which has as its main objective the overthrow of the Angolan Government."

On Tuesday night Mr R. F. "Pik" Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, responded by accusing Angola of providing training camps for several thousand ANC guerrillas and continuing to give "indispensable support" to Swapo, the guerrilla movement fighting for the independence of Namibia from South African rule.

Under the Lusaka Accord, Pretoria's troops operating in Southern Angola to block Swapo infiltration into Namibia were supposed to have been withdrawn over a period of a month and the task of controlling Swapo handed over to the Angolan army.

A year later South African forces are still about 25 miles inside Angola because, Pretoria says, the Angolan Army has proved unable or unwilling to control Swapo. South African sources claim that about 5,500 Swapo guerrillas are poised north of the border to begin their annual wet-season push into Namibia. There is no question of Pretoria's withdrawal being completed while this threat remains.

The South Africans admit that Renamo activity in Mozambique has increased.

WASHINGTON: President Casru has offered to co-operate with US efforts to negotiate a peaceful settlement to the southern African conflict. The Washington Post reported.

In the latest in a series of articles based on an interview last week with the Cuban leader, the newspaper quoted him as saying that his troops might be withdrawn from Angola if South Africa removed its forces from Namibia (Reuter reports).

KINSHASA: President Dos Santos of Angola arrived here yesterday for an official three-day visit to Zaïre aimed at resolving problems caused by large numbers of refugees along the two states' common border.

The crisis in Anzus

Reagan tries to calm storm over MX tests

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan meets Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, in the White House today to try to head off a clash over two proposed tests of the MX missile in the South Pacific. Australian newspapers reported yesterday that Mr Hawke, who is on a nine-day overseas tour, would tell Mr Reagan that he has changed his mind and will withdraw Australia's agreement to co-operate in the tests.

Pact against aggression

The Pacific Security Treaty, better known as the Anzus Pact, was signed by Australia, New Zealand and the United States at San Francisco in September, 1951, and came into force in April, 1952 (Henry Stanhope writes).

Diaries trial call for key witnesses

Hamburg (Reuters) - The lawyer for the man who confessed to forging the Hitler diaries asked yesterday for the newspaper publisher, Mr Rupert Murdoch, and the British historian, Lord Dacre, to testify at his client's trial.

Herr Kurt Groenewald, the lawyer for Nazi memorabilia dealer Konrad Kujau, also said the editor of The Times, a handwriting expert, and a New York autograph dealer should be called to give evidence.

Mother says Mengele starved baby

Jerusalem (Reuters) - A woman survivor of Auschwitz described yesterday how Dr Josef Mengele, the Nazi concentration camp doctor, deprived her newborn baby of food for six days.

Indian troops worry Pakistan

Islamabad (Reuters) - India has sent about 100,000 troops close to its border with Pakistan without explaining to Islamabad the reasons.

Osaka killers confess

Osaka (Reuters) - Three men wanted in connection with the murder of Japanese gangster boss of his two henchmen close to its border with Pakistan without explaining to Islamabad the reasons.

Another push to get Cyprus summit going

From Mario Modiano Athens

President Kyprianou of Cyprus said yesterday he has "firm indications" that the two sides are ready to meet.



Allies in crisis: Mr George Shultz (left) and Mr Bob Hawke talking at the State Department before a dinner to welcome the Australian leader.

Marchais blames Socialists

M Georges Marchais, Secretary-General of the French Communist Party, chose the opening of the party's 25th triennial congress here yesterday to deliver his most stinging attack on the Socialists, while insisting that the Communists remained in favour of a "union of the left", given the right conditions.



Pointing the finger: M Marchais exhorting the faithful in the Paris suburb of St Ouen yesterday.

Blast marks Khomeini anniversary

Tehran (Reuters) - A grenade explosion and police gunfire in Tehran left two people dead yesterday as Iran marked the sixth anniversary of the return from exile of Ayatollah Khomeini.

Famine in Africa

Addis Ababa (AFP) - Ethiopia received more than 400,000 tonnes of food aid between October, 1984, and this month, figures released by the United Nations disclosed yesterday, amid conflicting accounts of who has given what and in what amounts.

Delhi spy scandal sucks in Russians

India's burgeoning espionage scandal acquired another dimension yesterday when the Indian Express reported that two Soviet officials were involved and that one of them had already left the country.

US budget director enrages Pentagon by pensions attack

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Mr David Stockman, President Reagan's sharp-tongued budget director, has caused a furore by calling the military pension system a "scandal" and accusing economically pressed farmers of using "blackmail" to persuade the President to offer them a short-term credit bailout.

His remarks caused anger in the Pentagon and consternation on Capitol Hill, provoking a new round of questioning about whether Mr Stockman, who is no stranger to controversy, would keep his job as Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Mr Stockman made his provocative remarks while defending the President's \$973.7 billion budget for fiscal 1986 during a grueling three-hour interrogation by the Senate budget committee on Tuesday afternoon.

billions military pension scheme as an example of a programme which could usefully be cut back.

"It's a scandal, it's an outrage," he said of the military retirement system. "Instantly, I've got to get security before they'll give up on retirement."

An irate Senator Barry Goldwater, (Republican, Arizona), the venerable chairman of the Senate armed services committee, described Mr Stockman's remarks "about as distasteful as any I've heard from any Administration official since I came to Washington."

Rock issue still open, Moran says

From Richard Wigg Madrid

Señor Fernando Moran, Spain's Foreign Minister, refused to be discouraged yesterday by Mrs Thatcher's reassurances that the Gibraltarians on the day of the referendum.

"At no time did she say sovereignty is not negotiable," he observed after returning here from Geneva, where he met the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Mrs Thatcher reiterated in Parliament Britain's promise never to agree to transfer of sovereignty to Spain against the democratically expressed wishes of the people of Gibraltar.

Señor Moran emphasized his satisfaction with his talks with Sir Geoffrey. He said the sovereignty issue had been thoroughly dealt with.

GIBRALTAR: Spanish police at the newly opened frontier have imposed restrictions on Moroccan entering Spain from Gibraltar (Reuters reports).

Mr Muhammed Lehyan, one of the leaders of the 2,000 Moroccans working in Gibraltar, told reporters the border police were preventing Moroccans from crossing unless they had at least 75,000 pesetas (£365).

Mr Lehyan said the police barred 30 Moroccans from crossing yesterday, even when they showed Gibraltar work permits.

He described the Spanish action as racial discrimination and said it was ridiculous to expect people going to the Spanish border town of La Linea to carry so much cash.

LONDON: The safety of British holidaymakers and progress towards an extradition treaty with Spain will dominate talks between Mr Timothy Renton, junior Minister at the Foreign Office, and Spanish ministers and officials in Madrid between February 7 and 10, (Henry Stanhope writes).

Mr Renton will meet Señor Moran during his visit, announced by the Foreign Office.

The subway vigilante pleads not guilty

New York (AP) - Bernhard Goetz, aged 37, pleaded innocent to charges of illegal weapons possession in connection with the shooting of four young men on a subway train last December.

The judge reduced his bail to \$30,000 (about £45,400) and set a hearing for February 27.

Hundreds of protesters demonstrated outside the courtroom, chanting slogans which could be heard inside, such as, "Bernhard Goetz, you can't hide, we charge you with genocide."

A grand jury has charged Goetz with three counts of illegal weapons possession, declining to indict him on attempted murder charges.

Meanwhile, two of the youths shot have filed million-dollar actions alleging that he shot them "without just cause or provocation."

'Bambi' thieves are punished

Moscow (AP) - Two men stole three films being used to film Bambi's Childhood and slaughtered the deer for a birthday feast in a crime that inflicted "huge moral damage" on thousands of children waiting to see the film, a Soviet newspaper said.

Both men were sentenced to labour camp and ordered to reimburse the Vostok film studio for a lengthy delay in filming. One was given six years at hard labour.

Father's denial

Tel Aviv (Reuters) - The father of an Israeli soldier killed in the occupied West Bank denied he had prevented the former Israeli Defence Minister, Mr Ariel Sharon, from delivering a graveside eulogy to his son.

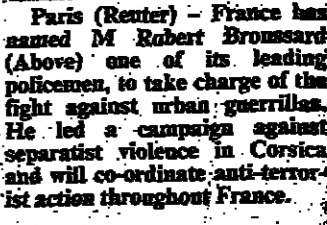
"I consider Sharon a friend. I would have been honoured if he had wanted to say a few words about my son," he said.

Drug arrest

Bogota (Reuters) - Colombia's presidential press secretary, Señor Román Medina, was arrested as part of an investigation into the smuggling of cocaine to Spain in a diplomatic pouch.

Anti-terror chief

Paris (Reuters) - France has named M Robert Bruneau (above) one of its leading policemen, to take charge of the fight against urban guerrillas. He led a campaign against separatist violence in Corsica, and will co-ordinate anti-terrorist action throughout France.



Panda saved

Peking (AP) - Chinese surgeons removed a cataract from the eye of a giant panda, the first operation of its kind, the New China news agency reported. The 12-year-old female, found nearly blind and on the verge of death from starvation, is making a good recovery.

RAF man dies

Brisbane (AP) - Flight Lieutenant Charles Chubb, aged 38, married with four children, from Dorset, who had been on exchange duty with the Royal Australian Air Force, has died from injuries received in a helicopter crash.

Three-year term

Moscow (Reuters) - Mark Nepomniashch, from Odessa, campaigner for the right of Soviet Jews to emigrate, has been sentenced to three years' imprisonment on charges of defaming the state, dissident sources said here.

Quake damage

Geneva (Reuters) - Almost 40,000 Argentinians have been made homeless by an earthquake which devastated houses in the western city of Mendoza 10 days ago, the United Nations disaster relief organization said.

Children in jail

Paris (AFP) - About 500 students and schoolchildren are still in jail in Morocco for political reasons, the Action Committee for the Release of Prisoners of Conscience in Morocco said here.

Safe landing

Singapore (Reuters) - A British Airways Boeing 747, of its four engines developed trouble during a flight from Melbourne to London, landed safely.

Whales rescue

Moscow (Reuters) - A powerful icebreaker has been sent to smash an escape route through thick ice for more than 1,000 white whales trapped near the Bering Strait, Tass reported.

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THE ARTS

It was an all-star evening for La Scala's production of *Swan Lake* in Milan, but as

John Percival reports some of the luminaries burnt none too brightly

Zeffirelli's satanic hand not good enough

Swan Lake
La Scala, Milan

When Franco Zeffirelli was announced to direct a ballet for the first time, the expectation was that he would bring a radical new approach to *Swan Lake*. Many of the copious changes he has introduced do reveal an impressive familiarity with the earliest productions, before the one by Pelipa and Ivanov that has become the "standard text" - or, at least, with their libretti. But impatience with the somewhat dubious logic of the received plot, and inability to accept it as a poetic flight of fancy, has led him into absurdities of his own far worse than anything that went before.

In Zeffirelli's view, the hand of Satan is to be seen everywhere behind the wicked Rothbart and his creature Odile. His other main insistence is that there shall be no swans, on the grounds that Odile is under a spell for only half the day, that must apply also to her friends. Fair enough, but it plays havoc with the choreography, so he must needs have everything done from scratch by Rosella Hightower, ballet director at La Scala.

Then logic of that, together with Zeffirelli's declared preference in

any production for looking back to the author's original intentions, should have led to taking Tchaikovsky's own score as the starting point, as several recent versions have already done with mixed but always interesting results. Unfortunately, instead of that he has just tinkered, and the often odd results were, it seems, compounded when Carla Fracci, Milan's reigning ballerina for three decades, demanded the enlargement of her role.

The result is that, with no less a man than Lorin Maazel in the orchestra pit, this *Swan Lake* is performed to an appalling mishmash of a score, with more cuts, transpositions and misappropriations than ever. In spite of this, Maazel is the hero of the evening, cheered to the echo, and he certainly knows how to whip up excitement for the music's climaxes. But he is operating, as it were, with one hand tied, and the result is exciting only, not really satisfying.

Zeffirelli's best achievements are in the designing, but even there a curious discrepancy appears. A prologue, in which Siegfried and Odette meet but are separated by Rothbart and his flock of devils, is set in a cold landscape with desolate lake, tiny island and ruined tower all in moderate materials. That returns

for the two lakeside scenes, but Siegfried's party is given beside a painted lake that is splendid in its vastness and overwhelming mountainous cliffs, but all in really out-fashioned style - as, indeed, is the choreography.

In keeping with that is the operatic bonfire, all fluttering red ribbons and smoke, that blazes centre-stage for part of Act I (only to be visibly carried off by two men when no longer required). On the other hand, the destruction of the palace by fire at the end of Act II is splendid, and letting Siegfried see the lake instead of the palace walls when Odile is fooling him is a brilliant idea, brilliantly carried out.

Zeffirelli decided to have two different dancers for Odette and Odile. For the latter, he chose Alessandra Ferri from London - another local girl, who, like Fracci before her, has struck out young for international fame. Quite a confrontation of talents.

Ferri's role is not drastically different from what Odette usually has. Hightower has kept her main solo and the big duet in Act II as close to Ivanov's choreography as the no swans, no birdlike arms. After that it should be no surprise that her third act duet with Siegfried (she being now dressed as Odette) is to snippets from both the two

alternative pas de deux that Tchaikovsky wrote. But nowadays virtuosity, never her strongest point, is fading, and the claque had problems keeping the applause going.

The best of Fracci comes in Act IV, where she sneaks in while Odette and Siegfried complete a duet of sad reconciliation and lays her head on his other shoulder.

Unfortunately, for so experienced a producer, Zeffirelli muffs quite a few effects. At the end of Act III, for instance, he distracts attention from Siegfried's infatuation with Odile by inventing an incident in which Benno, Siegfried's friend, attacks Rothbart with a dagger and is himself stabbed to death. The ballet's finale is equally muddled. Odette drowns herself. Siegfried continues dancing with Odile but finally rejects her - whereupon she dies. Rothbart and his devils are powerless, and Odette returns from the lake accompanied by a group of male dancers in white tights who partner her friends for the apotheosis. Who are they? You may well ask.

There are further performances of *Swan Lake* at La Scala on February 16, 17, 26 and 28 and March 3, 7 and 10, with cast and conductor changes.



Alessandra Ferri as Odette with Maurizio Bellezza (Siegfried)

Lynne Truss meets Nigel Williams, whose new play opens tonight

The writer as action man

"I can remember having a notebook when I was about nine or ten and writing in it. This Book belongs to Nigel Williams. Underneath 'Genesis.' My dad found it and wrote underneath, 'Well, undiscovered anyway'."

If Nigel Williams is about to be "discovered" this month - with a new play, *My Brother's Keeper*, opening at Greenwich tonight, and a new novel, *Star Turn*, still hot from the press - it will not be for the first time. The official unveiling took place in the late Seventies when after years of rejection slips for short stories he wrote a first novel *My Life Closed Twice* which won him the Somerset Maugham Prize. Shortly after, his first play *Class Enemy* gained him the label of "most promising playwright." Things got a bit hectic after that, with three plays and a second novel all appearing in the space of a year, a productivity so intense that it may have caused him to contract meningitis. In the Eighties he has learnt to control his writing-time better, but has still managed to produce two television series, *Johnny Jarvis* and *Charlie* as well as the new novel and play.

He has never doubted that for him writing is vital activity. "If I can't write for two or three weeks for any reason I do feel physically ill. But I don't think of it as a compulsion to write in the sense of a dreadful itch. It's not an unhealthy urge. I think of it more as a celebratory thing."

And he doesn't write for 10 hours a day: "I don't know many people who can. I'm finished after an hour. So if I'm



Nigel Williams: Soft spoken and sociable

writing a novel three hundred words is about average for a day. At that rate, the new novel *Star Turn* has taken four years to write."

He is now 37, with a successful career making films for the BBC arts programme *Arena* (he was responsible for the five-part study of Orwell last year). A family man with three sons, he is a sociable, soft-spoken person who confesses to a "shabby" appearance, perhaps indicative of "a desire to be loved." This image may well come as a surprise to audiences familiar only with his stage work. *Class Enemy*, *Sugar and Spice* and *Line 'Em* were raw, angry plays full of aggressive working-class speech and a high incidence of swearing. "People

do talk like that and I am obsessed with demotic speech anyway, which is why I use the first person narrator so much in my novels. I'm very anxious to make connections between classes and groups to show that language is something that's shared. Language isn't the exclusive property of a particular class - nor are intelligence and sensibility located in a particular group. The fact is that people's culture is a very unexpected matter. I was criticized because the working-class protagonists were thought to be too articulate.

"Our society is so imbued with disgusting attitudes about class that if you go to work on a canvas that involves a class other than your own they instantly start making assumptions about your political attitude. I hate the idea that I can't write about people from a different class, or that in doing so I am automatically misunderstanding and patronizing them."

His new play is his first attempt to write about middle-class people: "Middle-class speech is just as exciting, but it's taken me 15 years to get round to using it." Beyond that, and a hint that "it has aspects of dying in it," he's not prepared to talk

about it, as he would prefer not to influence the way people might respond to it. If its interest in middle-class people is a new departure, however, its *My Brother's Keeper* suggests a strong link with a theme explored over and over again in his fiction - the bond between male friends which often takes the form of brotherly devotion. His new novel *Star Turn* spans 50 years and a huge variety of fantastic incidents, but at its heart is a simple relationship between the narrator and his childhood friend for whom he feels enduring fraternal love.

As its title suggests, *Star Turn* has a strong element of dramatic showmanship: "I'm very against the novel being a form that isn't conscious of itself in the way theatre is. If you can build into it that element of honesty about the artifice the reader will find it more taxing, but it will ultimately enlarge his or her experience in the way theatre does."

Star Turn also develops another theme close to his heart. "At one level it's about the difference between the life of action and the life of contemplation." The narrator, Amos, is content to fantasize about role-playing, while his friend Zak does it for real.

"The book opposes the writer against the man of action and comes down pretty decisively on the side of the life of contemplation. Zak's fate (absorption into fascist politics) is an object lesson for people who think they can go into the world and control it and be untouched by it. It's a novel for the post-1968 generation, which I identify with totally, the generation of people who went to universities in the late Sixties and got involved in radical politics. I've come out of the politics of the past ten years with a bitter hatred of what I take to be totalitarian attitudes. I'm very glad I spend my working life among writers and artists."

Star Turn is published by Faber and Faber, price £9.95.

Natural Causes

Watford

Long ago in a little piece called *Happy Death Ltd* Frank Sladen-Smith explored the idea of a pop-in euthanasia parlour that drew its profits from the fact that the clients invariably had second thoughts when it was too late to get their money back.

Since then I have often wondered why thriller writers have not turned to the theme of assisted suicide as a fertile alternative to outright crime. The answer is contained in Eric Chappell's "black comedy" in which the vacillations of the suicide candidates are all too faithfully reflected in the queasy indecisiveness of the writing.

Natural Causes centres on the figure of a long-depressed wife, Celia, whose husband celebrates her years of failed attempts on her life by engaging a suicide

consultant for their silver wedding. That could have made a sober but effective play. Mr Chappell decides to underline it comically by supplying the husband, Walter, with a mistress half his age. Finally he tilts it towards farce by presenting the agent of death, rather than the principles, as the main character.

I had high hopes of Vincent, the man from Exodus Ltd, at the start of the evening. For one thing, Michael Robbins plays him with insistent echoes of Max Wall - a lantern-jawed, unsmiling ex-undertaker for whom human folly holds no more secrets, and who runs rings round his over-educated over-professional clients through professional expertise. It is quite a treat to see Mr Robbins dissolving into derisive giggles at the news that poor Celia is planning to end it all with the primitive expedient of a rope, not to mention his high-minded

Theatre

refusal to part company with his poison bottle until he is fully assured of the client's wish to pass over to the other side.

The first act does seem to be developing into a new kind of thriller, dramatising all the hypocrisies and lusts of that genre without overstepping the law, and presenting a killer who is also the sleuth.

As the show develops, however, hopes for such a play gradually slide out of sight and for the oldest dramatic reasons, none of the characters is selfish enough. Vincent may want to claim his first double suicide: Walter may want his wife out of the way; the girlfriend may long for her rival's death. But when it comes to the point there is always some reason for delay. I lost count of the number of times the poisoned glass was lifted, and finally it gets downed only by accident.

What keeps the action going is an endless series of stage

managed, misunderstandings. These might generate, but if played with speed and inventiveness, Kim Grant's production is a measured affair, giving too ample time to register. Roby Robin's wide-eyed misapprehension, Ian Lavender's glare under his suave manner, as Walter, and Cathryn Harrison's sardonic "refinement" as the girlfriend.

These are quite brilliant performances but they are on most uneasy terms with comedy. Let alone farce: You could sympathise with one of the "villains" with the energy and directness of provocation. But these half-hearted grotesque creatures prompt only dislike and indifference. The play contains some genuinely funny lines and one half-hearted acting part. It does not demonstrate enthusiasm as a workable theme for comedy.

Irving Wardle

Douglas Jeffery

Hamlet

Young Vic

This modern-dress production by David Thacker, following last year's *Othello* and *Macbeth* at the same theatre, is rich in excellent scenes. Intelligent details express unspoken thoughts and the initial thrust of the plot is clearly put across. If the production tails away after the gravediggers leave, this is partly due to the low-pitched, almost conversational tone that now takes over.

Hints of this have occurred already, in the introspective Claudius of Jonathan Burn (often too quiet) and in some of Hamlet's conversational speeches. Matthew Marsh's interpretation is along the lines of the witty student quick on his feet but slow to do what he is told. Freudian analysis plays no part: it's a straight reading, clear so far as it goes - and it does go a long way. His athlete's build is not flaunted, there is no dreamy lingering over lovely vowels, and the open honesty of his dealings with Horatio (Andrew Scowbee) gives the essential anchor to his wildness with everyone else. But *Hamlet* does not hold together with a "straight" reading, and in the

Natasha Richardson playing Ophelia

absence of a director's or performer's cue to the character's reluctance to kill we are required to believe what is said of him. That is never easy.

Mr Marsh limits himself to a narrower vocal range in the public scenes than in the monologues. These he addresses to the audience, rather than to himself, so giving the speeches a dynamism that is altogether admirable.

Black scaffolding across the rear of the stage serves as the battlements and suggests the watch-towers of a modern totalitarian state. Most of the action is set in the central area, often with the characters virtually enclosed within a circle of palace chairs.

The play has been slightly pruned but its language left unaltered. The preponderantly young audience may not all know what fardeals are nor tell precisely Hyperion from satyr, but in the swift flow of the evening this seems unimportant - though it does make limp statements as "The time is out of joint" come over with uncommon force.

The earliest witty lines weren't indicated as such but by the time Michael Cronin's



Polonius started relishing his pedantic wordplay the audience is fully able to join in the fun. He is very funny; a bureaucrat in the Yes, Majesty mould and a readily recognizable heavy father. Natasha Richardson is another impressive performance gives a most attractive

Ophelia: the puzzled tremor in her voice traces an intensity of love, uneasiness and pain. The neat dual, pitting the Frenchified elegance of Laertes against the casual skills of Hamlet, is one of the most convincing I can remember.

Jeremy Kingston

Concerts

LPO/Tennstedt

Festival Hall/Radio 3

If one were to list Klaus Tennstedt's failings as an interpreter of ripe Romantic scores, one would not perhaps place his emphasis on spotless precision at the top. There were moments in his reading of Bruckner's *Symphony No 4* when a strange, carefree attitude towards some fairly basic moments seemed to prevail. A rare solo exposure for the violins in the finale was not particularly in tune; many of Bruckner's grandiose chordal passages for the wind were delivered with ragged ensemble, for all their splendid, whole-some tone and over-artful phrasing by the horns came forward when a more straightforward tonguing would have been safer.

I mention these blemishes, first, because Tennstedt's interpretation seems to me to have the makings of greatness and it would be a pity if its elevation was delayed by superficial details (which is what these are). If, like Isaiah Berlin's hedgehog, Tennstedt knows one big thing, it is his sure grasp of the architectural design that holds together and gives cohesion to Bruckner's massive blocks of sound. And if his conducting technique sometimes seems to be suggesting more to the players about the grand formal design of the movement than about exactly where to place the next beat;

well, that is all part of his genius.

The perfectly judged manipulation of tempo, often not marked by Bruckner but surely expected, is at the heart of Tennstedt's structural insight. At the start of the first movement's development (for instance, he took his cue from the sliding chromatic harmonies - implying mystery, expectancy - and slowed the speed so that tiny details became pregnant with significance.

Then as the great chorale emerged, he balanced superbly a glowing and well-sustained brass choir against the "balo" of string tremolandi. In the coda of the same movement a converse operation took place: a sudden surge of speed and power that brought the music to a close in a massive and jubilant mood.

More revelations were to come in the slow movement - and it was slow, losing much of its usual march-like tread but gaining immeasurably in wistfulness. Tennstedt elicited some distinguished playing from the viola section, and again brought light to bear on neglected areas of the score. A horn, talking a mournful low note, was encouraged to project far more than his "ppp" markings would suggest - a strange and rustic effect, indeed. Balancing the rustic with the sublime in this symphony is, however, the key to its heart. Tennstedt has the capacity to unlock its glorious secrets.

Alfred Bendel has been unlocking doors to Beethoven for many years, and his playing

in the Piano Concerto No 4 had that alliance of clean-cut stylishness and intellectual challenge - almost provocation - that makes him such a fascinating performer. His brisk approach to the first movement emphasized classical antecedents, but this was offset by two magical moments of rubato. Ushering in the development section, Brendel dwelt pensively on those three significant quavers, ingraining them on the listeners' memories. Ushering out the same development Tennstedt unleashed a glorious burst of horn sound - a sudden shaft of heart-felt Romanticism amid what were otherwise mainly cerebral pleasures.

Richard Morrison

Academy of London/Stamp

Queen Elizabeth Hall

Although announced in the Academy of London's "American Artists Series", only one of the five soloists at the orchestra's all-Mozart concert on Tuesday night came into that category. She was Maggi Heilwell who brought an essentially lyric soprano to the dramatic weight and feeling of the concert aria "Ah, lo previdi" (K.272). It was sung with due sense of musical style, notably in the final cavatina section, but with no great burden of heartache for so tragic a lament.

The other soloists were principals from the orchestra, of

whom Gavin McNaughton had additional prominence in the Bassoon Concerto, K.191. His playing was for the most part placid and controlled, a touch too even in some of his figurative in the slow movement, but with agreeable plaintive tone in the high register, and a modestly resourceful short cadenza in each of the first two movements. Richard Stamp's conducting was discreetly supportive here, as to the soprano carrier.

The bassoonist was joined by his oboe, clarinet and horn colleagues, Sarah Francis, Thea King and Frank Lloyd respectively, for the E-flat *Sinfonia Concertante* (K.297b), which now exercises much doubt about its authenticity. Be that as it may, the sometimes pedestrian performance here was not of a character to improve its pedigree, and the repetitious variations of the finale were in dire need of some wit or humour to embellish their content.

As Charles Cudworth pointed out in his editing of the A major *Symphony* (K.201), the choice of tempo can dramatically change the overall character from sunlit grace to something more demonic. Mr Stamp settled for the more easy-going approach, observant of most repeats in successive movements, and evoking throughout a genial warmth and serenity with little to ruffle the surface charm, and with responsive spirit in a well-balanced ensemble from the players.

Noel Goodwin

Television

It may be that we will be drawn into the anarchic spirit of Tom Sharpe's *Blott on the Landscape* as it progresses but last night's episode, there will be six suggested that BBC2 may be optimistic with its Saturday repeats.

Mr Sharpe has pronounced himself pleased with Malcolm Bradbury's adaptation of his novel, with a hint of a reservation about the amount of sex. Possibly a really rewarding translation to film is impossible. Mr Sharpe can succeed with his weird edifice because of the way he tells it: the film may sweep us along in the same way. Both characters and plot are manic and incredulity distances us from the humour.

It should have been comic when we saw Sir Giles Lynch-wood's mistress, having secured him naked on a bed to indulge him with a caressing, forget about him and go out but it just seemed bizarre.

George Cole plays Sir Giles, whose refusal to give his wife, Lady Maud, a child precipitates the action. Mr Cole has considerable comic expertise and is devastating on a used car lot but he fails to convince as a man with his roots in the squirearchy. Geraldine James, too, though full of long-striding energy as Lady Maud, is denied by nature from making a convincing dragon.

Then there is David Suchet as Blott, the enigmatic gardener and her ladyship's comfort. Having recently inhabited the skin of Freud, Mr Suchet is obviously well set to portray a

man who would have been a challenging patient; but so far he is constrained by his role.

In the face of so much effort by everyone concerned it seems fair to wait and see but I doubt that we shall be holding our sides.

Charles II died, repenting his sins to a Catholic priest, 300 years ago. The sins were many though not all will be regretted by those who still bear titles as a result of his womanising; distance dispels guilt and brings respectability.

Charles's debauchery and indolence combined to limit his activities mainly to self-preservation but on the credit side there is the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, founded, it is believed, at the instigation of the warm-hearted Nell Gwynne, the observatory and Greenwich, and kind memories from the Royal Navy.

He deserved, on the whole, his special from BBC2's *Time-watch* but it was a pity, with such fertile material, that it proved to be soggy.

Dennis Hackett

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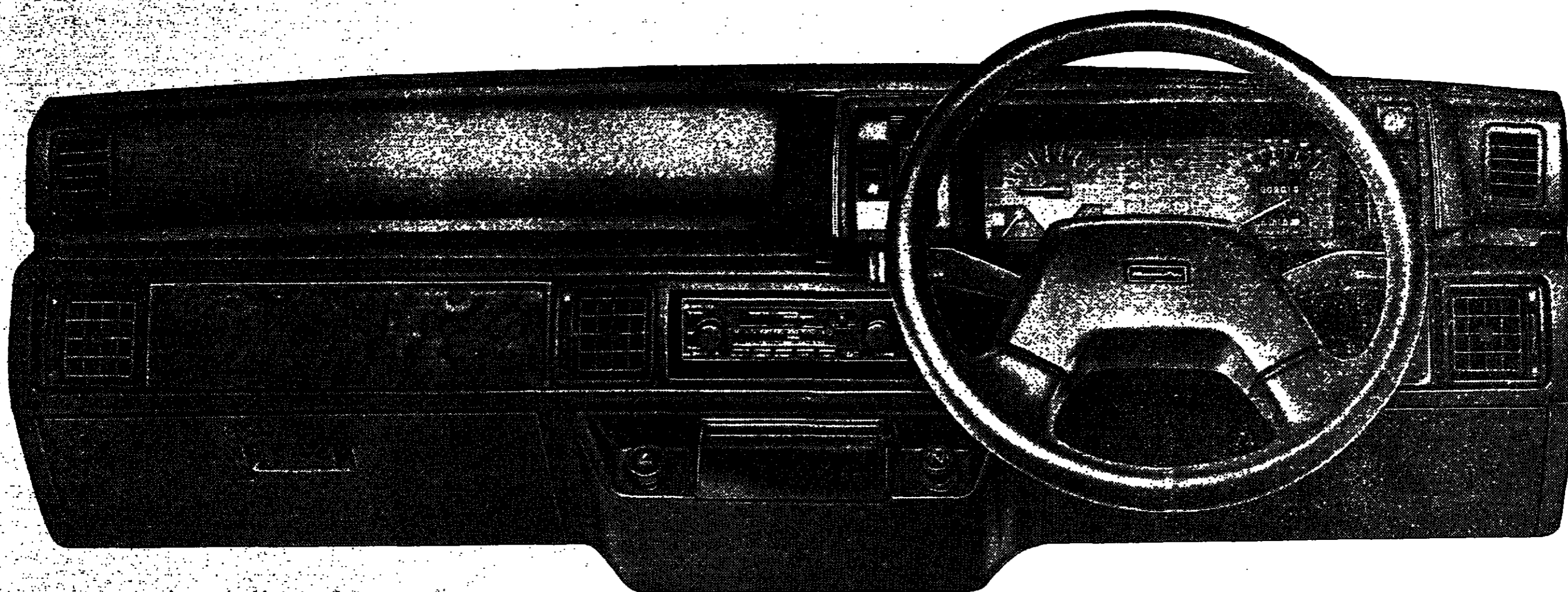
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A straightforward sort of cove

The Times Profile: Denis Thatcher

It was once said by a friend of his that Denis Thatcher is the sort of man who, if his wife were not Prime Minister, you would find in the saloon bar of any Home Counties hostelry proclaiming: "There'll never be a woman running this country."

There is such an element of truth in the remark that it is easy to accept as being exactly him. Indeed, if you did not know who he was he would strike you at first as blunt but honest—a straightforward sort of cove, out of the same mould as so many of the ubiquitous "majors" who lurk in suburban locals taking an evening "snorter".

If you were a regular in the pub you'd learn eventually that he'd been in a medium-rank public school, had an average sort of war, come back to run the family business, sold it and got a seat on the board of a large oil company, got married, had two kids, of whom he is very fond, and was passionately interested in golf and rugby.

You would never get an inkling from him about his wife and he never pushed his name. Recently he was buying his round in a London pub when a man turned to him at the bar and said: "You're either him or the spitting image of him." He replied: "I know. It's always happening. It's bloody infuriating. You can't get a drink in peace anywhere any more."

He may have thought she was barking mad to stand against Ted Heath—but he backed her all the way

To go with the stereotype he also has a fairly predictable range of opinions—from the BBC being full of Marxists to Arthur Scargill wanting locking up—all of which he expresses in a peppery tone laced with mild expletives.

However, while all this is part of him—he is in many ways the curiously-dated author of *Private Eye's* "Dear Bill"—it misses the man, the third dimension which enabled him to go from having a Company wife to being the Company Husband. It misses the qualities which have made Denis somewhat of a hero to the country without him giving interviews or in any way taking any of his wife's limelight.

The extraordinary thing about Denis Thatcher is that he clearly loves the task so much. It is as though all the old-fashioned virtues which are second nature to him—unfailing courtesy, straightforwardness yet tolerance, uprightness and the innate desire to serve—have all been waiting for the moment.

"The unfortunate thing is that the quality of his performance in the role is obscured somewhat by the fact that his wife's enemies continually try to make him suffer by comparing his strengths to her superstrengths and making them seem like weaknesses," says one of his closest friends.

"She can see how unfair it is on him. She knows what Denis has sacrificed for her. She knows he is invaluable to her and acknowledges it publicly."

Even such close friends would

admit they are a couple with very little on the surface in common. No marriage can last 33 years without stresses and tensions and there have been times when the irritation has shown through at having to get Denis's supper instead of working on government boxes. There have been occasions too, especially during her time as Education Minister, when he has wanted his wife to chuck it all in; and times still, though he would never say it, when with his seventieth birthday looming, he would now swap Downing Street for Dungonnin.

It is a very different world from the one in which Denis Thatcher married Margaret Hilda Roberts, Grantham grocer's daughter, Oxford chemistry graduate and would-be MP, on December 13, 1951 at London's City Road Methodist Church.

It was her first marriage, but for the rather serious-minded, 36-year-old businessman who had taken over the family's chemical company after the war, it was the second time around. A hasty wartime match had, like so many others, gone disastrously wrong and left him determined not to marry again unless he was certain he had found the right woman.

But early in 1949 he had been captivated by the young Miss Roberts, 10 years his junior, who presented herself to the local party committee for selection for the "hopeless" seat of Dartford. Twenty-five years later he declared that the qualities he found then still appealed: "She was beautiful, gay, very kind and thoughtful. This, of course, is her greatest quality. Who could meet Margaret without being completely slain by her personality and intellectual brilliance?"

He was not put off by the hint of steel she showed when, at an early meeting with his mother, she firmly disposed of the idea that she would shortly give up all political presumptions and become a good, normal wife for Denis.

In fact, he was rather proud of her and became more so when between 1953 and 1959, she had twins, qualified as a barrister and became an MP. "They both had gone into marriage with a deeper sense of commitment than is fashionable nowadays," says one old family friend. "It was based on one word: loyalty. It is his loyalty to each other which has seen them through."

"In the 1950s Denis was the breadwinner, the career man, the head of the company, the one people looked up to. But by the sixties it was his wife who was rising through the Shadow ranks."

However, in the early 1970s they were both in key jobs and under strain. Burmah Oil moved its headquarters to Swindon and Denis reverse-commuted, driving 150 miles a day and often working up to 10 hours as well. Meanwhile Margaret was under siege at the Ministry of Education—and dubbed as the "Milk Snatcher".

By late 1974 Denis had the future roughly mapped out. He was near to retirement. The Tories were to be in Opposition for at least another four



Herbie Kross



How the other half lives: playing golf in Japan, getting married in 1951, receiving some Prime Ministerial attention, and sporting a turban in India

years. Margaret would hold a series of Shadow posts—and might get back into the Cabinet by about 1980. The children would be grown up and hopefully married. Golf with his cronies, and the traditional rose-covered cottage, beckoned sweetly.

"Nobody can describe what a shock it must have been for him," says another old family friend. "But it is a measure of the man that he never showed it for one moment—only pride and delight. He may have thought she was barking mad to stand against Ted Heath—but he backed her all the way. When she got it Denis simply decided that he was not actually retiring after all, but that he had a new job to do; that of

"There was no blueprint for it. Yet with only a couple of slips, like using No. 10 notepaper to press a private business interest, Denis has done it brilliantly and re-reveals in it."

What he brought to the job was first and foremost the sense of being his own man. He had already had a successful career, therefore he had no ego to get in the way of subjugating his life to hers. She can shout at him, and does sometimes. Also he can, and does frequently say, what he likes. And, unlike almost everyone else around her, he can't lose his job.

As he has said: "I've always regarded the fact that no one's interested in me per se with equanimity. I've never begrudged

Margaret her triumphs, no, never in the slightest". Even he admitted, however, that there were moments in political life... "I mean sometimes one does sit down and think 'Jesus worth while?'"

Ironically those are precisely the moments—when Mark was lost, the Falklands, Brighton—when Denis also provides another vital service, when he is shoulder to cry on, literally. "He is a shock absorber", I was told. "He can take her at her most fraught, let her blow off the emotion, whether it is anger or fear, then calm her down." Sometimes he is also an extra hand, working on the other side of the street or along a line at a reception.

BIOGRAPHY

Born: May 10, 1915.
Educated: Mill Hill School.
Married: Margaret Kempton, now Lady Thatcher, divorced 1948; married Margaret Hilda Roberts, 1951.
Children: Mark and Carol, born 1953.
1934-38: Atlas Preservatives.
1939-45: War service—staff officer, Sicily and Italy, MBE; mentioned in dispatches.
1946: Returned to Atlas.
1948: Atlas sold to Castrol.
1978: Retired from Burmah Oil, but still a non-executive director of a handful of companies and on Sports Aid Trust.
Hobbies: Golf, 18 handicap and rugby, was a first-class referee.

He fills his time away from his duties in order to avoid boredom and loneliness. Because of the low profile he has always kept, he has preserved his ability to be able to escape. Once on a golfing trip he was asked to prove his identity on registering at the hotel—"Pull the other one, mate. Blokes like you are always trying that on," the clerk told him, pointing to the address he had written.

He is diligent in attending meetings of the few companies of which he is a director. He turns up regularly, for example, at Attwoods—even though the offices are somewhat less than imposing, situated in a Portakabin in a gravel pit behind Heathrow Airport.

His golfing cronies include newspaper editor Bill Deedes (to whom the *Private Eye* letters are addressed) and builder Ron Monk. He also watches television quite a lot in the evenings in the flat upstairs at Downing Street. Perhaps Carol will call in and have supper with him, either raised from the freezer or a take-away Indian or Chinese from Victoria. Sometimes he will go out to dinner with a couple of friends—most of whom are business acquaintances. He will always be home in time to welcome his wife back from whatever she has been doing.

He can take her at her most fraught, let her blow off the anger or fear, then calm her down

The physical parameters of his life, bring out best time and again to those old-fashioned words like respect, standards and traditions. "He does live by a simple, clear set of values—both 20th century morality and psychology have passed him by," one of his friends told me. "He has never pretended to be anything other than an honest-to-God right winger. His world is divided into the decent chaps; and the ones who aren't. And you know, he has now travelled right round it and met everybody of importance in it and he has discovered, to his delight, that it is exactly how he always thought it was."

"Margaret doesn't want complex political thought from him—she gets enough of that at work. But think of the security of a man who knows exactly who he is and what he thinks. That is her rock."

"If he has any complaints he would never state them. Both he and she belong to a generation which was bought up not to complain about the cold—you simply were not cold. He will also be totally embarrassed that you are writing an article about him."

Rodney Tyler

moreover Miles Kingdon

Years ago I dreamt up an idea for a television play based on the difficulty of young people finding accommodation in London. Why not, I thought, have a young couple who opt for living in one of those canvas vans with a tiny kitchen and room to sleep? Once they had bought them, they could drive straight to a nice area and pick out the spot they wanted to live in, then get a resident's parking permit.

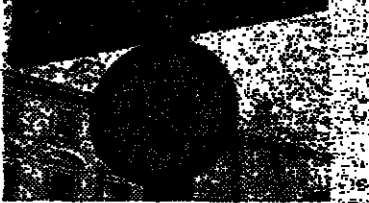
The comedy would revolve in their attempts to have milk deliveries, a postal address, good relations with the neighbours, and so on. Although basically free as air, they would quickly become another home-bound couple who just happened to be living in a home with four wheels.

I never wrote the play, partly because it was much more fun thinking about it than writing it, and partly because I had the usual scary suspicion that my life had probably overtaken me already. For instance, there is a car park on the north side of the Serpentine, in 'London's' Park, that has been used since the war to park the yachts of the Serpentine, open only to bicycles, police cars, ice-cream vans and large Arab families with more than 20 members. And in this car park there were often large camping vans with foreign registrations, late at night.

There were lights on inside. Shadows would sometimes move against the curtains. Nice smells would come and once I saw a TV set which was clearly a TV set. It was pretty obvious that foreign holidaymakers were staying there overnight, having solved the problem of high hotel prices in London at a stroke. I was all in the park, so I had to leave the van overnight. I can only say that I had a very nice time having twisted someone's arm.

Recently life has started imitating my "invention". I was reading from me on the premises of Ludbrook Grove there is one of those gaily striped red and white British Telecom vans like a tiny rounded snapper. When ever I pass it, I hear warm voices coming out, chunks of telegrams, the vague burble of a radio. Is someone working in there or has someone set up home? Not being what you might call an investigative journalist—in other words I prefer exciting fantasy to boring facts—I have not yet dared to knock, if you can knock on a van, and find out who is there.

But what I have noticed is that in the last few weeks the British Telecom van has sprouted an extension, a second red and white tent, a new awning. I can believe that the first one may be positioned over a man-hole, but the second? Impossible. I think the family has moved in; or they have guests, or visitors from another part of British Telecom. London, you're a mysterious old town.



Now here is a real life mystery for you. In Kensington Palace Gardens, the private road containing the grandest embassies in London, also known as Millionaires' Row, a new sign has gone up which I reproduce here. What do you think it means? I stopped to ask the man in the top hat whose job it is to stop non-ambassadors coming in, and he chuckled.

"Amazing, isn't it? Nobody knows what it means. People are always stopping to ask me. Even the Russians have come to me and said: 'What on earth is that meant to mean, looks like a bomb falling out of the bottom of a suitcase, doesn't it? Well, it means No Cameras. They do not want anyone to photograph the embassies here in case they are spies. Know what I mean?'
"Yes, of course you can take a photo of the sign. Be my guest."
"Don't know why they both, er, really."

Dog days for the sporting bird



In the last of his series Alan Franks explains his theory that the pet owner is more slothful than

athletic these days and the demand for exotic fish and reptiles reflects this

Another offensive generalization maybe, but here goes. There are two eccentric strands in the British pet-loving fraternity. The first is athletic and the second is apathetic. One is in love with sport, the other with sloth.

How else can we explain the two brisk businesses of highly active and hugely passive animals which lie at either end of the spectrum? They may be tiny minorities compared to the 11 million constituency of domestic cats and dogs—to say nothing of the budgies, goldfish and sundry rodents—but they excite a passion in proportion to their scarcity. They deserve our attention.

On a purely statistical analysis, we have to accept that Britain is becoming more slothful and less sporting; greyhounds are down, and reptiles are up.

None the less, greyhound racing remains the second most popular spectator sport after soccer, with an attendance of just under four million a year, composed of between 50,000 and 60,000 regular punters.

leisure industry must surely change if it is not to go to the dogs. Today it attracts just one third of the custom which it could command in the late 1940s. The great stadiums which mushroomed in the wake of the first, at Belle Vue in Manchester in 1927, now represent huge tracts of under-used land in valuable city sites, and the owners must adapt or die.

"I see a three-tier system coming into play in due course," says Mike McGiffen, editor of the magazine *Greyhound Owner*. "Rather like you have with the horses, there'll be the greyhound equivalent of your Ascots, Cheltenham and Haydock at the top of the market, then your Kemptons and Lingfields in the middle, and so on down to the smaller meetings of the point-to-point variety."

At a time like this, with the scent of Crufts fresh in their noses, the breeders of racing greyhounds are a sceptical bunch. In the words of one, the sash dogs are "a joke... speed machines designed by a committee. The poor things are so ungainly they can hardly bend down without feeling awkward, let alone actually run."

The best of the racers can fetch prices of up to £50,000, although each year produces a crop of only about six in the £20,000-plus bracket. Like its airborne counterpart



Falcons work for their living, just like a gun dog

the falcon, the greyhound is one of the oldest hunting aids known to man. Evolution has honed them into the Exocets of their field, and yet their function as predator is quite illusive. Man's greyhound chases nothing but a toy hare—as a domestic pet his pacifism itself—while the falcon makes fewer kills as a trained bird than he would in his natural state.

For this reason the falconer does not incur quite the same disapproval that comes the way of other blood-sportsmen, even though his avowed aim is the taking of quarry. "Some people think that it's all really about training," says Emma Ford, who runs the British School of Falconry in Kent. "But it's more than that. Certainly the birds themselves are fascinating, but the relationship

between them and humans is not a pet relationship. More like that of a working gun dog."

Just like other domestic pet-keeping, falconry has a venerable history, going back to the China of 2,000 BC and receiving its first European mention in the writings of Pliny and Aristotle. Its decline in England can be blamed squarely on the advent of the shotgun in the early 17th century.

There are just a few thousand of these birds of prey in captivity in Britain today, and falconry is a hard sport to start; breeders tend to be very choosy about where their birds go, in addition to which the beginner has to find a willing teacher.

longer pets, but a form of sport-by-proxy—there is another form of animal life which is quietly slithering lucratively into our homes.

Now known as "the alternative pet industry"—and not just because of Ken Livingstone's enthusiasm for reptiles, amphibians and exotic fish are catching the public imagination. Precise figures are hard to gauge for, unlike the cases of cat, dog and budgie, there is no major dog industry to monitor the market. Still, many reptile retailers believe that in a few years their business will begin to rival the tropical fish sector and even make a significant dent in the "conventional" share of the domestic animal trade.

Several reasons are advanced for this optimism. First, people are realizing that cats and dogs

(particularly the latter) can be more trouble than they are worth, since the establishing of a bond is also the undertaking of obligations; second, the growth of smaller living areas, attracts buyers to creatures which are happy in compact quarters; third, the educational value of amphibians is making them highly popular in schools.

As with the cat and the dog, it is the ancillaries of ownership which far outweigh the cost of buying a reptile. For example, it is not hard to pay £50 for a properly equipped tank, and only a fraction of that for its occupant.

These are some of the species emerging as best-sellers in the alternative pet industry: ● the fire-bellied toad, originating from North China. One inch long, bright green and black on back, with, as suggested by the name, a red and black belly. It needs a minimum of attention and has a life expectancy of six or seven years. It likes to eat most small insects, but is mad about worms and crickets. Price: £5.

● the gecko, originating from Madagascar; a small tree lizard with suckers on the end of its toes. Green eyes and multi-coloured, luminous body. Eats small insects, and a diet of honey, sugar and nectar. Costs about £22.

● the giant stick insect, from Papua New Guinea. Grows to a length of eight to ten inches, and a width of more than half an inch. Cost £1.50.

Of the snakes, the North American garter snake is one of the most popular at the cheap end of the market, while the exotic South American snake, the anaconda, at £200, is attracting more admirers than purchasers. Hardly surprising, since these, bought at lengths of a few feet and first content in a vivarium of six feet by four, can burgeon into an adult size of 30 feet.

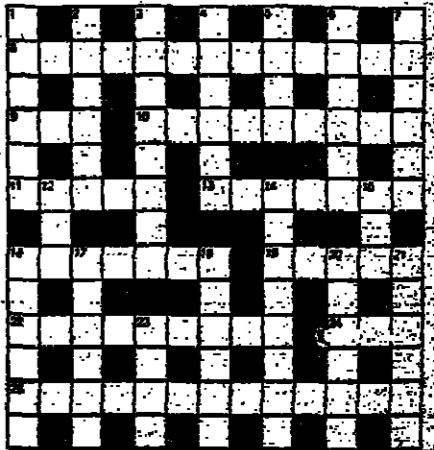
particular part of the population— young couples without children. They are a fussy lot by all accounts, partly because they have no fixed ideas about what they want when they enter the shop.

So, does this mean that they stand in the mainstream of the British pet-loving tradition, or just that they are looking to fill their lounge with some diverting background movement until a baby comes along to upgrade the lot of them. On the evidence of one major London retailer, the signs are not encouraging. "Lots of them don't seem to be as bothered about the animal as they are about its home. They see tanks with desert, or jungle or savannah backgrounds, and they make their minds up according to which will fit in best with the home decor."

Standards are slipping.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 564)

- ACROSS
- 8 Company newletter (5,8)
- 9 Donkey (3)
- 10 Obstruction (9)
- 11 Russian cereal drink (5)
- 13 Throw back (7)
- 16 Fetter bone (7)
- 19 Rumba type dance (5)
- 22 Non-local phone (5,4)
- 24 Clergy title (3)
- 25 Unfriendly behaviour (7,6)
- DOWN
- 1 Flog (6)
- 2 Soviet Union (6)
- 3 Raised in relief (8)
- 4 Cup dish (6)
- 5 Indian "Mr" (4)
- 6 Manly (6)
- 7 Wilts Berks river (6)
- 12 By way of (3)
- 14 Easily recognized (6)
- 15 Young host (3)
- 16 Irregular (6)
- 17 Crash (6)
- 18 Tider (6)
- 20 Yacht club (6)
- 21 Deduce comment (6)
- 22 Link word (6)



SOLUTION TO No 563

- ACROSS: 1 Muffin 4 Faience 7 Soot 8 Function 9 Dialysis 13 Diner 16 Radical reform 17 Ban 19 Latitude 24 Fatscap 25 Cleat 26 Kudu 27 Kitten
- DOWN: 1 Moss 2 Forbidden 3 Nifty 4 Fungi 5 Cite 6 Droop 10 East 11 Split 12 Sweat 13 Broadcast 14 Dump 15 Crab 18 Alive 20 Apple 21 Tink 22 Send 23 Wean

BOOKS

The moralities of politics

John Grigg is a good measure of the times... John Campbell on the rehabilitation of Welsh wizardry

John Campbell on the rehabilitation of Welsh wizardry

LLOYD GEORGE From Peace to War, 1912-1916 By John Grigg Methuen, £19.95

Lords crisis in 1910. Taking up the story in 1912, this third volume applies the same questioning approach to four of the greatest crises of Lloyd George's life...

Historically more important were the great political crises of 1914-16 first the decision to enter the war and having entered to fight it with all the resources...



his best to shield his own two sons. He makes a similarly clinical dissection of a later speech to Nonconformists...

Cambridge blues, tacky quips and glittering surprises

FICTION

Nicholas Shakespeare

HEAVEN AND EARTH By Frederic Raphael Cape, £8.95

COLD SHOWERS By Clare Nonhebel Century, £8.95

THE FINAL PASSAGE By Caryl Phillips Faber, £8.95

ORGANIZED CRIMES By Nicholas von Hoffman Michael Joseph, £9.95

Because he savagely reviews an influential colleague, Gideon Shand fails to become a Cambridge Fellow. He works instead as a lecturer in the cathedral city of Chaworth...

Enter best friend, bridge-partner and successful Jewish barrister, Stephen. Stephen it was who commissioned the ruinous review...

Yes, it's another Frederic Raphael novel, but these are the bare bones of a work which resembles an elephant's graveyard of discarded plots...

reminde of the incredible production figures the Ministry achieved. Given this unequalled drive, the inevitability and rightness of Lloyd George's elevation to the Premiership in 1916 is now scarcely a matter of controversy...

Barry was involved with someone else. Confronting the past, she faces the future.

Cold Showers is more complex than it seems. The freshness with which Cathy's loss is made real, not sentimental...

The Final Passage is an even more impressive debut. The bleak tale of a Madonna-like mulatta who, with husband and child, exchanges her small, poor Caribbean island for the square...

England is no better, and all the while Leila suffers mutely, yellowing like a snapshot. Caryl Phillips's prose is confident and understated...

Hot stuff was Saul Bellow's recorded reaction to the dense first novel of American columnist Nicholas von Hoffman...

Reviewers probably shouldn't see dust-jackets. They prejudice one too much. This one has an author's photograph of a fantastically neat looking man in a suit...

Spooks, sleepers moles

THRILLERS

Tim Heald

NOCTURNE FOR THE GENERAL By John Trenhaile The Bodley Head, £8.95

with. Thus Yuri Volanov, the ace Russian agent who takes on the identity of farm-boy Jim Everson at the end of World War II, becomes Assistant Secretary of Defense for Air and acquires a fondness for Aaron Copland and the Baltimore Orioles...

Like the makers of Bond films, the authors apparently find unusual and preferably very bloody killing methods an absolute hoot, but if this doesn't bother you they are also strong on both panache and pastiche...

Seven Steps To Treason, by Michael Hartland (Hodder & Stoughton, £8.95). Vienna is a good place for a thriller - a neutral crossroads with a menacing sense of decay - and it's not a bad wedge to make your hero the middle-aged Ambassador to the U.N. Austrian branch...

The Sleeping Spy, by Herbert Barkholz and Clifford Irving (New English Library, £9.95). The fictional convention about "moles" and "sleepers" is that for years and years they burrow or hibernate in an enemy world without ever being seduced by it...

Master of the Modern Movement

Charles Kneivitt

OUR SELVES UNKNOWN An Autobiography by Lionel Brett Collins, £12.95

Few have enjoyed such a charmed up-bringing as Lionel Brett, Viscount Esher. He was born into a family whose home was a country mansion, Watlington, in Oxfordshire...

But as a young progressive, he exposed the cause to the Modern Movement, and records meeting some of its lions: "A dry Martini with Chermayeff in his elegant apartment in Bayswater, a whisky with Wells Coates in his high-tech studio in Yeoman's Row and, most elevating of all, a lager with Lubetkin on the Priesian-cow-skin settee in the famous Highpoint One penthouse..."

Sporting angels on horseback

Fiona MacCarthy

F.A.N.Y. The Story of the Women's Transport Service 1907-1984 By Hugh Popham Leo Cooper/Secker & Warburg, £12.95

Four beautiful English ladies wearing khaki uniform over their harmonious bodies; to a Japanese reporter at the end of the last war, describing the scene in a Tokyo canteen run by the occupying British forces...

But as a young progressive, he exposed the cause to the Modern Movement, and records meeting some of its lions: "A dry Martini with Chermayeff in his elegant apartment in Bayswater, a whisky with Wells Coates in his high-tech studio in Yeoman's Row and, most elevating of all, a lager with Lubetkin on the Priesian-cow-skin settee in the famous Highpoint One penthouse..."

A life of her own

Stuart Evans

JOANNA'S LUCK By Mervyn Jones Piatkus, £8.50 THE ELEVENTH SUMMER By Carlo Gebler Hamish Hamilton, £8.95

Joanna's Luck is a resolutely, if at times deceptively, unsentimental account of a young woman's determination to live her life on her own terms. Without Mervyn Jones's intelligence, narrative discrimination and social acuity, the theme and mood of the novel might well have been the substance of a story in a popular magazine or a television playlet...

Carlo Gebler's The Eleventh Summer is distressing. It recalls the childhood of an unusually fastidious little boy consigned to rural Irish grandparents by an uncrising father after his mother's death. The grandmother is kind and affectionate, but severely afflicted by her odious husband, a drunken profligate, wheedling or cowered in his own degradation...

HAMISH HAMILTON congratulates the winners of the Whitbread Literary Awards. BEST BIOGRAPHY Peter Ackroyd T.S. ELIOT. BEST FIRST NOVEL James Buchan A PARISH OF RICH WOMEN.

FOYLES ART GALLERY CATHERINE MORRISON AN EXHIBITION OF DECORATIVE STAINED GLASS 10-6 daily until Feb 13 113-119 Charing Cross Road London, WC2

THATCHER ATTACKS CONSPIRATORS? Both questions answered in SUBVERSION and the British Riposte. by G.K. YOUNG In handback by Oyston Publishers Ltd. £8.95

Cabbages and Emperors Philip Howard. Diocletian has never had a biography written about him in English before...

Celebrating the art of autobiography GRANTA 14 Edited by Bill Buford. Reminiscences, memoirs, memories and observations from Beryl Bainbridge, William Boyd, Raymond Carver, Todd McEwen, Doris Lessing...

THE TIMES DIARY

Numbers game

Robert Maxwell has promised to "look" into *TV Eye's* discovery that newspaper bingo cards are fixed so that for 99.9 per cent people it is impossible to win. I await the result of his investigation with interest. On the afternoon of the programme last Thursday Maxwell was approached for a comment. He was, he said, appalled at the findings he would go to the studio at 8 pm - 90 minutes before transmission - and give an interview in which he would announce that he was stopping all bingo in all Mirror Group newspapers from the following day. At 7.40 pm Maxwell's office rang to say he would not be coming. This was followed shortly after by a letter providing a "thorough defence" of bingo as run in all his papers.

Bird call

The unsentimental portrayal of Captain Scott in Central Television's dramatization of his ill-fated Antarctic expedition *The Last Place on Earth* to be broadcast this month will not be the only cause for offence. Writer Trevor Griffiths has tinkered with the most famous line in Scott's diary. As Captain Oates leaves the tent for certain death in the blizzard, he no longer announces: "I am going outside and I may be gone for some time." Instead he turns to fellow explorer Birdie Bowdler and quips: "Call of nature, Birdie."

"A Catholic priest and a housewife become allies in a campaign for nuclear disarmament," reads the blurb for a new Canadian television series called *The Front Line*. CBC describes the series as "dramatic fiction". Perhaps they haven't heard of Monsignor Bruce Kent and Mrs Joan Ruddock.

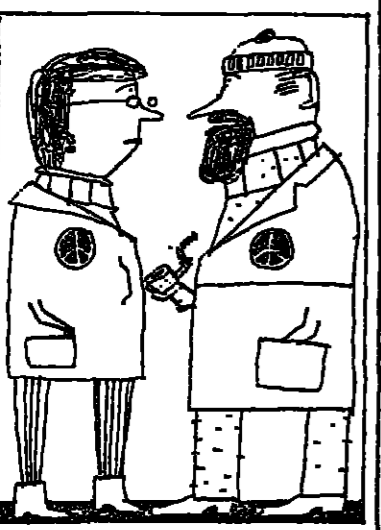
Shake up

The Duke of Edinburgh yesterday disclosed that he has been forced to substitute his old, firm handshake for a new "mp" one. The Prince, aged 63, says a lifetime shaking millions of hands has left him in agony. "He told us he has been forced to change his handshake because he has been suffering pain when people's thumbs press repeatedly on the same spot," said Dr John Dingle, director of the Strangeways Arthritis Research Laboratory. The Duke also disclosed another secret - his fear that he is suffering from arthritis after years of playing polo.

Labour point

Labour MP Brian Sedgmore is demanding that the Prime Minister declare a "family interest" in the Omani Cementation deal in the Register of MPs' Interests. Until then he is refusing to update his own entry. As a result, at his own insistence, Sedgmore's declared interest in freelance journalism has a rider declaring the entry "inaccurate". So what are the Hackney MP's new concerns? "Not telling," he says.

BARRY FANTONI



Pay as you burn

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, which recently accepted a cheque for £745 from Conservative Central Office for damage to its mock Trident submarine at the Ivy conference, had three members jailed on Monday for setting fire to a radio mast in Yorkshire. Can the Government now look forward to a £228,000 cheque from CND for the damage incurred?

Laugh a minute

Following Margaret Thatcher can have its frustrations. Giulio Andreotti, Italy's Foreign Minister, tells of the trauma he suffered as Prime Minister when he visited Tokyo along with Mrs T. Japanese security arrangements laid down that he had to take the lift to the hotel lobby and enter his car exactly 90 seconds after the British Prime Minister entered hers. But she, "indulging her feminine privilege only in this", was a few minutes late, leaving Andreotti in a state of chaos. Andreotti, who recounts the story in the third volume of his studies of famous contemporaries, says rather wearily that his little comedy with Mrs T was repeated four times. The Japanese were not amused.

PHS

Time to bring in identity cards

by John Biggs-Davison

has not so far found favour. One objection is that it would be an undue infringement of civil rights, another that forgery would be too easy. Upon examination neither argument holds much water.

The "plastic revolution" has taken place. We have become accustomed to driving licences, bank cards, credit cards, medical cards, club membership cards, not to mention passports or other travel documents. None of these infringe civil rights or human dignity. It is a convenience to the honest and law-abiding to establish one's identity quickly and a protection against harassment. Before the House of Commons made them binding upon its Members I voluntarily obtained an identity card bearing my photograph and signature. This is common form in the public service.

Such a card, with the photograph of the holder, together with his or her signature, is the best proof of identity.

But what of the second objection, of easy forgery? Modern ID has become sophisticated, notably with the use of the holograph. There may be no complete and continuing defence against forgers, but we lock our

doors, even though locks can be picked, and show our passports at immigration desks, even though forged passports exist.

A national identity card would help security and the public by speeding entry to buildings or locations liable to attack and assisting in the search for suspects in the immediate aftermath of an attack. It would protect from inquiries or arrest innocent individuals found near a criminal incident. In the debate on the Northern Ireland (Elections) Bill, intended to prevent personation at the poll, the introduction of identity cards was advocated by Ulster Unionist and British Conservative Members.

Belgium, West Germany, Greece and Luxembourg are members of the European Community where identity cards are obligatory. France and Italy both issue them on a non-compulsory basis. In the United Kingdom wartime cards were scrapped 33 years ago on the grounds that the emergency was long over, and that there was no need for them in times of peace.

The Britain of 1952 was, however, safer than that of 1985. The times are abnormal. In the middle of what may prove a violent and dangerous decade, should we not think again?

The author is Conservative MP for Epping Forest.

Paul Routledge on a possible solution to the pit strike - if only talks could begin

The whiff of defeat creeps closer

Two recent cameos of the pit strike illustrate its unpredictable, contradictory nature. The first was a man in green overalls patiently chipping away "Coal not Dole" stickers from the front window of Camden Town Hall, where the strikers have maintained a fundraising vigil for many months. Surely, this looks like the end.

The second, on the same day, was the sight of two "working" miners at Frickley colliery near Doncaster beating a carpet outside the pithead offices. Only five of the National Union of Mineworkers' 1,600 members at the mine have broken the strike and they cannot go underground because the deputies will not cross picket lines. Will it never end?

Such straws in the wind will not influence the 26 members of the NUM national executive when they sit down this morning to determine their next step in the conflict over colliery closures. But they tell us something about the weary but seemingly indomitable troops that are leading.

After 11 months the strikers are still in a majority, although it diminishes day by day. At yesterday's count 105,000 NUM members were on strike, 56 per cent of the total employed by the National Coal Board. This week has seen a record surge in the drift back to work, and the NCB's target of 50.1 per cent of miners at work can only be a few weeks away. Which half of the union will the executive seek to represent then? the board's managers ask.

There is little point in asking the miners' president Mr Arthur Scargill. Faced, even in private, with the coal board's figures, he whips out an electronic calculator to "prove" that 89.5 per cent of those who began the strike last March are still out. Plain statistics also seem to have lost much of their logical force in the calculations of the dominant centre-left coalition on the executive that favours continuation of the strike. Moderate leaders from the traditional strongholds of the right - Northumberland, Durham, Staffordshire and Lancashire - are clinging to the "no surrender" strategy despite evaporating popular support for the strike in their areas.

The moderates insist that they will talk about procedures for dealing with "uneconomic" capacity when negotiations with the board are reconvened. Away from the glare of the television cameras they concede the NCB's argument that this is the central issue of the dispute which negotiations must address. They want those talks, and they want them sooner rather than later, before the union's bargaining



position is eroded by the drift back to work. They recognize that if half their members cross the picket line it will come as a major psychological blow to the strike even if the pits are still functioning at only one-third capacity.

The trouble is, how does the union - and the coal board, for that matter - get from here to there? The board has actually hardened its bargaining position recently, insisting that simple acceptance by the NUM of the pit deputies' peace formula of October last is not enough. The union's words about "no closures on economic grounds" have to be unsaid. The NUM must give a written assurance that it accepts the principle of closures on economic grounds before negotiations towards a settlement can begin, it insists, and the proposed amnesty for 600 men sacked for various offences during the strike cannot be an issue in the negotiations on a return to work formula.

These are bitter pills for the NUM to swallow and not even the moderates are willing to attempt to do so. With the departure of Mr Ned Smith from the head of the board's industrial relations department they have few allies in Hobart House to argue the case for magnanimity and a reasonable, negotiated settlement. Yet the tone of the letters going back and forth between Mr Merrick

Spanton, the board member for personnel, and Mr Peter Heathfield, general secretary of the NUM, is substantially more flexible and more cordial than the hard-line statements of Mr Scargill or Mr Michael Easton, the board's chief spokesman.

There are those at the coal board - and not among the lower echelons - who are anxious that the peace process does not collapse completely. The last initiative, an abortive round eight of negotiations, is plainly dead. But from it might come a clear concise statement of what an acceptable agenda for talks should look like. The "talks about talks" might then resume on a more rational basis and the whole NUM executive could be invited to give its verdict on the terms for negotiation.

When asked directly at a press conference five days ago what the NUM would have to say in writing before talks could begin in earnest, Mr Easton replied: "We (the NUM) agree that we accept the process by which the board have a right to close a coal mine for reasons of economics after the exhaustion of the review procedure."

Such a formula would be anathema to Mr Scargill, but not necessarily to a majority of his executive. After all, it was recognized by the NUM in the minutes of a preliminary meeting between the union and the board on January 21

that since the advent of Plan for Coal in 1974, collieries had been closed for reasons other than exhaustion or safety, "and this process would need to continue within the colliery review procedure." The union has acknowledged that there should be a third category for closures and the difficulty has been how this should be defined. The two sides actually talked about "how this *de facto* situation might be phrased in any settlement."

Therein, surely, lies the basis of a negotiated settlement: not one perhaps, that would meet with the total approval of the government, but better than an end to the strike with no agreement at all, as some South Wales miners are now urging. The coal board is aware that its tough line has hardened attitudes among the hard core of strikers. Some managers think that a tactical withdrawal from the more exposed bargaining positions might be preferable to an anarchic ending, with every closure being fought in an endless, nightmarish guerrilla war.

The received wisdom is that after this protracted dispute the miners will be in no mood to strike again for many years. On a national basis that is almost certainly true. But the fierce passions that this conflict has aroused show no signs of conveniently disappearing.

Newt warms up for a jab at the left

Nicholas Ashford talks to Newt Gingrich, the man defending America's Nicaragua policy in today's Oxford Union debate

Washington Oxford undergraduates will have the rare opportunity tonight of hearing two "revolutionaries" from opposite sides of the political spectrum debate America's role in Central America.

In the left corner, Sergio Ramirez, vice-president of Nicaragua and one of the leading intellectuals of the Marxist Sandinista movement. In the right corner, Newt Gingrich, a rebellious young congressman from Georgia who, with his New Right, seized control of the platform committee at last August's Republican convention in Dallas, and injected a deeply conservative note into the party's manifesto.

These two ideological rivals are to debate the motion that "America's involvement in Nicaragua is an affront to western values". This is a debate which Ramirez ought to win, given that even Mrs Thatcher has expressed concern about some American actions against Nicaragua, notably the CIA-directed mining of its harbours.

But Gingrich, encouraged by the debating success of Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, in the same chamber last year, as well as by his own unshakeable self-confidence, believes he can persuade sceptical undergraduates that US actions in Central America are part of a broader effort to defend western democratic values against communist-sponsored terrorism and tyranny.

"To me the choice is very clear," Gingrich said during an interview in his Capitol Hill office. "On one side you have a man who comes from a country which has practised tyranny over the past few years, which has systematically undermined its neighbours and which is allied to the forces of terror (a reference to

Nicaragua's alleged links with Libya, Iran and the PLO).

"On the other hand I represent a country which has systematically been trying to encourage elections and to encourage people in the region not to kill each other."

A former history professor, Gingrich, 41, is highly articulate and frequently weaves into his conversation quotations from Churchill, Orwell and Jean-Francois Revel, the French philosopher so beloved by the New Right. He is a persuasive speaker and even manages to make a strong case for Washington's decision to boycott the World Court's hearing of Nicaragua's complaint of US aggression.

He does not accept that the US withdrew because it knew it was on

shaky ground; the World Court is motivated more by political considerations than the rule of law, he claims, and is therefore "not truly a body of justice".

Although Gingrich will be effectively speaking on behalf of the Reagan administration, he is considered something of a gadfly in the Republican Party. The leader of a group of populist-conservative young congressmen, known as the Conservative Opportunity Society, he has frequently crossed swords with some of his political superiors who, he believes, are too liberal or too soft on the Democrats.

He recently denounced Senator Robert Dole, majority leader in the Senate, as the "tax collector of the welfare state". And he charged

David Stockman, Reagan's budget director, with being engaged in "phase one of the terrorization of the president" because he advocated a tax increase to reduce the federal budget deficit.

Gingrich's critics believe he is little more than a skillful self-publicist who uses his position to win media attention for his high-tech vision of the future. However, his many admirers believe that he represents the Republican Party of the future and that he and other conservative "Young Turks" will play a central role in deciding the party's agenda in the post-Reagan era.

Gingrich's vision is laid out in a book entitled *Window of Opportunity*. Like Gary Hart's blueprint for the 1980s, *A New Democracy*, it has been more talked about than read. Gingrich outlines a state in which private enterprise leads the way to a new era of prosperity. He is anti-tax, anti-welfare state and anti-communist, and has an obsession with space exploration, even introducing legislation three years ago that would provide constitutional protection and statehood for future American communities in space.

Gingrich will have to deal with more down-to-earth issues tonight. His Nicaraguan opponent is fluent in English and a skilled advocate of his country's policies. Part of his audience is likely to be sympathetic to the charge that US actions in Nicaragua reveal the uglier side of Washington's foreign policy.

"I think," asserted Gingrich, "that I will be able to demonstrate that Nicaragua represents a threat to values that Britain and America both share, values such as free speech, free elections, freedom of the press and the right to live among neighbours without fearing attack."

Ronald Butt

Mr Heath: things have changed

"Of course, I don't believe what we've got now is true Conservatism. It's 1860 laissez-faire liberalism that never was. All that telling people to 'do as I do and you'll be all right' or to get on their bikes and find a job. What's the use of telling the ex-steel workers of Consett to get on their bikes? I mean, where on earth would they go to? One of my most satisfying jobs has been on the Brandt report. We really woke up public opinion to the condition of the Third World. Well, that's one area where market forces don't enter into it. You can't tell starving Abyssinian peasants to get on their bikes and find a job."

Thus spoke Mr Edward Heath in an interview with *The Sunday Times* last weekend. The logic by which he travelled intellectually from the plight of the Consett worker whose job has disappeared as a result of industrial change, but whose basic needs are protected by social security, to the horror of the Ethiopian peasants who are the victims of a natural disaster and Marxist ruthlessness can be left to speak for itself. It is enough to remark that the former Tory prime minister now finds market forces so distasteful that he even seems to find some satisfaction in the thought that at least they can play no part in remedies for Ethiopia.

However, Mr Heath's statement that we now have 1860 laissez-faire liberalism rather than true Conservatism does deserve a little thought. Although it is a strangely disposed analogy, as misleading as it is unhistorical, it does reflect a certain kind of dissident Tory comment on the current political situation.

In the 1860s party allegiances, ideas and even names were in a state of flux. One of the prevailing ideas was laissez-faire which denoted not only a belief in free trade and minimal or no interference with economic activity, but also, in its extreme form, a reluctance to see any kind of interference by the state, even by way of legislation, to deal with social problems. The theory was that these were best dealt with by private effort and the prosperity that laissez-faire would bring. Yet such ideas simply reverberated round the edges of mid-Victorian political activity.

More broadly, the story of the Liberal Party in the nineteenth century, particularly under Gladstone's leadership, was one in which the idea of social laissez-faire, as distinct from laissez-faire trade, was steadily abandoned. Both the Liberal and the Conservative Party, each in its own way, contributed to the kind of social reform which makes nonsense of the idea that unbridled laissez-faire was the keynote of Victorian politics.

Perhaps Mr Heath was acknowledging this after his fashion by his throw-away reference to the laissez-faire liberalism "that never was". If so it only makes the analogy more absurd, since it would imply that Mrs Thatcher had achieved what eluded John Bright - despite the apparatus of a high spending social security state whose essential responsibilities are nowhere challenged.

R. F. Cutler

Shelve this book embargo

Nearly three years ago, in April 1982, the Government banned the importation of books from Argentina as part of a general trade embargo. It was not, however, until July 1983 that the Customs seized parcels. There was an immediate outcry, led by the national and university libraries, which pointed out that they were being denied material vital to study and research.

Ministers held out until September, arguing that "any shift in our position would send entirely the wrong signals to the Argentinians". Then the ban was modified to apply only to books for "resale", in other words, books destined for booksellers. The impounded books addressed to institutions, private individuals (and the *Times Literary Supplement*) were released.

The book trade began to protest. Individual booksellers and their trade organization wrote to the press and to the Government saying that most libraries obtained their Argentinian books from British suppliers, and did not want to be forced to switch to Argentinian exporters. The booksellers pointed out that the embargo was being operated the wrong way round; at least two good Buenos Aires academic bookshops circled the British libraries for custom.

The flow of orders to British booksellers for Argentinian books continued unabated for a time, but when it became clear that no further relaxation was coming, booksellers had to tell their customers they could not supply them. The flow has become a trickle - the libraries have had to switch.

The Department of Trade acknowledged that there was an "irony" in the situation. The Foreign Office went even further in February 1984: "It is particularly unfortunate that one of the effects of the exemption has been to give a potential advantage to your Argentinian competitors."

If the complete removal of books from the embargo relaxed, however slightly, our pressure on the Argentinian government to resume normal relations, then it could be claimed it should not be done. This is a wider context in which the national interest ban the importation of books from any country when national security is not involved, as in this case?

Still, perhaps Mr Heath was thinking more about laissez-faire attitudes to trade (which he would once as Trade and Industry Secretary supposed and favoured) and about economic management, for he went on to say that the right answer to unemployment was "betting organization" and spending money on roads and other public works although these were uniquely lacking in Britain. From that you might suppose that Britain's latest seasonally adjusted unemployment figure of 12.9 per cent was exceptional. Yet in France it is 12.5 per cent, in the Netherlands 17 per cent, in Belgium 18.6 per cent and in Germany 10.6 per cent.

Yet what Mr Heath now says matters because it helps perpetuate a myth which could be dangerous because of the dilemmas facing the Government. Largely because of the strength of the dollar and the instability of oil prices, and at home because of the coal strike and a feeling that the Government has not been keeping monetary conditions tight enough, the pound has fallen too far for inflationary camouflage. Interest rates have therefore had to be raised to a level which, if sustained, could put recovery at risk.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer had been relying on lower interest rates and tax cuts to promote expansion. But there is little early prospect of interest rates returning to 9½ per cent and Mr Lawson has now had to reserve his position on his tax cuts. If, because of oil and the dollar, the interest rate cannot quickly come down, it might be asked why he should not emulate the US and maintain a high level of interest to facilitate tax cuts. The answer is that if he did so, and guaranteed that he would not let the deficit become inflationary, there would be no market confidence comparable to that which is given to the US administration when it says the same. Why? Precisely because Mr Heath and so many others, are pressing for more public spending.

The government's Tory critics do not say how much they would do about public spending, what they would do about interest rates, how far they are prepared to see the pound fall, what they would do about exchange controls or whether they are really once more hankering after incomes policies and planning. As for Mr Heath, he is so absorbed with his nineteenth-century sloganeering that he refuses to accept that the government is having to cope, as any would, with a wholly new problem.

This is how to reconcile conflicting demands on the state from rival interests, which add up to much more than the state has available or taxpayers are willing to provide. Government today is in that position because it has taken on responsibilities undreamed of by Bright or Gladstone, which in aggregate subject it to intolerable political pressures.

That is why the state has to do less in total if what it does is to be done well, and is to be reconcilable with the responsible management of a free and stable society purged of the excesses of inflation.



Opposing sides: Sergio Ramirez (left) and Newt Gingrich

The author is a director of Grant & Cutler Ltd.



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STABILITY AND INSTABILITY

The Reagan administration has now succeeded in allaying the concern of the four main European governments about the strategic missile defence programme which has become the long-term foundation of President Reagan's hopes to reduce the threat of nuclear war. The governments of West Germany, France, Italy and Great Britain have now given indications to Washington that they support the principle of the research programme. None has yet followed this moral support with active involvement in the research, but the West Germans seem to be nearer doing so than the others.

West German public opinion has always been more susceptible than the others to Soviet diplomatic manipulation where nuclear threats are concerned. The Soviet inspired campaign against the SDI is thus likely to concentrate between now and the resumption of the Geneva talks on the allegedly "destabilising" characteristics of the research programme. The Soviets claim that the American programme of research and development into missile defence is to threaten the whole concept of strategic nuclear balance which has been at the basis of East-West relations for a generation.

There are two immediate points to put against such a supposition. Firstly, why should the American programme be destabilizing, when the Soviets have conducted research and development into missile defence for the past twenty years and have, in the course of that time, spent more money on missile defence than they have on offensive systems? Secondly, the concept of strategic stability between East and West is in any case a dubious one. It is not only undermined by the often declared determination of Soviet leaders, to their own people to undermine and destroy western democracy, and what they describe as "the class enemy." It is further undermined by the unsound philosophical foundations of a strategic policy which, in the West, relies solely on the capacity to wreak revenge on one's adversary in retaliation for being attacked. The sense of incompleteness about having no other defensive capacity to reduce the threat of such an attack has caused an erosion of public confidence in the credibility or morality of such a system of deterrence.

The European governments which have now come round to support President Reagan's

proposal have been badly served by their embassies in Washington. There is no other explanation for the fact that Europe has come so late in the day to recognize the very profound transformation in American strategic thought which was heralded first by President Reagan's speech in March 1983 and seemed then to be ignored in Europe for another 18 months.

It has been conventional wisdom in and around European governments that President Reagan's SDI programme was an ill-thought out, largely fantastical idea sprung by the President on an unsuspecting and unprepared defence establishment. It was widely held to have been repudiated by all reputable scientists in the United States. How could the European governments have been so badly informed by their Washington embassies unless, as with so many aspects of the Reagan phenomenon, their diplomats had simply listened to fashionable dissent from the east coast establishment and made their assessments more on the basis of the New York and Washington press and on some residual wishful thinking in the State Department.

In fact the origins of President Reagan's SDI are deep and wide. Throughout the first 18 months of his presidency he was engaged in an exhaustive exercise of strategic analysis during which the Chiefs of Staff sought to advise him on the decisions which needed to be taken to provide the United States with its next generation of strategic offensive systems. At the end of that exercise President Reagan remained unconvinced of its completeness. He criticized the Chiefs for the absence of any strategic vision in the programme. He called on his staff to explore the potentialities of defence in order to discover whether or not emerging technologies could yet enable the United States to move away from a policy where the only defence to be found in the threat of retaliation.

Those studies were conducted by a group of about 30 scientists led by the physicists Dr. Teller and Dr. Keyworth, who was attached to the White House. Their assessment formed the basis of President Reagan's speech in March 1983 in which he said: "I call upon the scientific community, those who gave us nuclear weapons, to turn their great talents now to the cause of peace; to give us the means of rendering these nuclear

weapons impotent and obsolete." He recognized the magnitude of the challenge before the scientific community, but the philosophical basis of his speech sprang from a conviction that there could be no stability in nuclear defence so long as it remained necessary to rely on the spectre of retaliation, and that this spectre would continue however much the strategic offensive arsenal of each side were reduced.

The immediately hostile reaction from Mr Andropov and other Moscow statements was revealing. It showed the extent of Soviet knowledge about the potentialities of missile defensive systems, culled from 20 years intensive research. It revealed the Soviet determination to prevent the West developing something which Soviet leaders who had never relied solely on strategic defence by retaliation alone, wanted to deny to the West, but had been nursing themselves for many years.

The Soviet reactions were thus an understandable part of the strategic game. That should be remembered when they come to table proposals at the Geneva talks. A more puzzling reaction in 1983, however, came from American scientists whose criticisms of the SDI, though purporting to be based on scientific grounds, were ultimately based on the political argument about its potential to destabilize the strategic relationship. In fact for every scientist who criticized the SDI there was another scientist who endorsed it.

Naturally the scientific arguments had given rise to over-bidding on both sides - its impracticability or its prohibitive cost on the one hand, on the other its potential to provide total defence against incoming missiles. The detailed potentiality of this technology will emerge as the research programme proceeds. But enough is known already to suggest that it provides the first hope for a generation that the pendulum between offence and defence may once again be swinging towards defence. Even a partial defence must be better than no defence. The prospect of such a development will have a profound effect on the whole psychology of nuclear war. That is certainly destabilizing in the sense that it undermines the grisly equation of defence by retaliation. In that case it is indeed a welcome loss of stability.

It was at Yalta mainly to deal with the Polish question. My impression was that it suffered as a result of Roosevelt's other priorities. Perhaps, although even today I am not sure, Churchill might have achieved better results over Poland if Roosevelt had pressed harder and had been ready to create a "special relationship" with Stalin, often at the expense of his relations with Churchill.

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Priorities of the Allies at Yalta

From Sir Frank Roberts
Sir, In your leading article of February 4, "Forty divided years", you did me the honour to quote from a remark of mine on the illusions of western leaders during the wartime alliance about developing their relations with Stalin. I hope therefore you will allow me to make the following comments upon an article, with much of which I agree.

First and foremost, the leaders of the wartime alliance did not meet in Yalta only to discuss the future of Europe, still less, as the rest of the article implies, only that of eastern Europe. This was of course an issue of the greatest importance, more especially for Stalin, but also for Churchill, given his earlier and stronger commitment to Poland than that of the United States which, like the Soviet Union, had been brought so much later into the war by enemy attack.

There were, however, three other issues of at least equal importance at Yalta. The first was to agree on orderly arrangements for the final victory and for the forthcoming occupation of Nazi Germany from east and west, and so avoid what might have become dangerous disputes and even conflicts between the victorious allies. The second was to ensure a rapid conclusion to the war against Japan and to keep down the expected very heavy casualties by bringing the then neutral Soviet Union into that war, which it was not at that time certain would be ended by two atom bombs.

The third concerned the future, not only of Europe, but of the world, to be based upon a United Nations immensely stronger than the former League of Nations through Soviet and American membership.

The United Nations and the war against Japan were probably Roosevelt's main priorities at Yalta, where he set out to create a "special relationship" with Stalin, often at the expense of his relations with Churchill.

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Case for reform at Portland Place

From Professor E. G. Wedell
Sir, In your anxiety to promote the dismantling of the BBC you have oversimplified both the issue of principle and the practical issues.

On the argument about the maintenance of public service standards of broadcasting the evidence is against you. There is no country in the world where a wholly commercial broadcasting system has performed better than a public service system.

Commercial systems produce occasional peaks of excellence. Without the incentive of public accountability, however, they tend to achieve stability over time by identifying the common denominator of viewer tolerance and working to that.

At a time when the satellite and cable developments are in any case exerting a destabilising influence on broadcasting systems it is unwise to tamper with broadcasting institutions which can set the standards for the future. The BBC provides precisely the conditions of stability and security needed to build up significant programme resources: it can grow its own timber in terms of talent; it can exact economies of scale from capital investment; it can devote creative people time and space to develop their ideas, and it can plan ahead.

The very fact that you were able to argue in an earlier leader that "programme quality is not a primary political issue" illustrates my point. Your proposals, if acted upon, would undoubtedly bring programme quality into the political arena.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE WEDELL, Director,
The European Institute for the Media,
The University,
Manchester,
February 4.

From Mr G. N. M. Mellersh
Sir, Your leader on February 2 rightly drew attention to the skill of the BBC in keeping the battle for the £65 licence fee to its own ground - a lucid and convincing argument of more fundamental question of the preservation of public-service broadcasting.

It is surprising and alarming that the role of the corporation's chairman, Mr Stuart Young, has been to act solely as a mouthpiece for the complacent, patronising and arrogant attitude that the BBC has a divine right to carry on as before, and to be handed a licence fee of its own choosing.

There have been no signs whatsoever that the chairman is prepared to consider other structures. There has been no evidence that in the months he has been in office that he has effected any change in the corporation's thinking or its management.

It appears he has been totally seduced by the siren voices of Portland Place and White City, even to the extent of pointing proudly to static staff numbers when practically every other industry in the country has had to make painful and extensive staff reductions.

not have any absolute significance.

Water authorities are monopoly suppliers of essential basic services, and the investment is without risk.

A proportion of water authorities' capital spending is involved in the fulfilment of their statutory responsibilities, which require that they provide water and sewerage facilities in areas where income from the consumers served will not meet the investment costs involved.

For these reasons it is reasonable to expect only a low return from the water industry.

Mr Gow's assertion is therefore misleading. The objective of the Government and the water industry together should be to provide an efficient service to the consumer, industrial and domestic, at a cost that is kept below the rate of inflation.

Yours faithfully,
A. R. GUY, Chairman,
Water Panel, Confederation of British Industry,
Centre Point,
New Oxford Street, WC1,
February 1.

copying industry have been largely eradicated, it probably true, he gives the erroneous impression that this is mainly due to the activities of the Federation against Copyright Theft.

There is no doubt that FACT's activities against organized crime in this sphere have resulted in many successful operations on behalf of the video companies, and much publicity. It may be of interest, however, for your readers to know the less publicised figures relating to action taken under the Trade Descriptions and Copyrights Acts by the UK's trading standards officers against video copying.

In the 30-month period to June 1984, trading standards departments obtained 5,610 convictions against 602 defendants, with a further 5,225 offences taken into consideration. Total fines and costs exceeded £300,000 and penalties included three custodial sentences. The value of seized goods was in excess of £1.25 million. (*Institute of Trading Standards Administration's Monthly Review*, November, 1984.)

Video copying may now be a diminishing industry, but other counterfeiting activities are diversifying and expanding into all areas of trade, as is well documented in *The Times*.

As with all crime, the public's eyes and ears are the first line of defence, and it is worth a reminder that any information passed to a local trading standards office can be acted upon quickly and effectively, to the immediate benefit of local consumers and the long-term benefit of all reputable traders.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. CLOTHIER,
4 Glen Road,
Burton Joyce,
Nottinghamshire.

ON THIS DAY
FEBRUARY 7 1811

In November 1810 Princess Amelia, the youngest and cherished daughter of George III (1738-1820) died. The effect on the king was to drive him to an attack of that insanity which he had suffered for a few months in 1789. On February 5 1811 the Regency Act was passed - the Regent to be the Prince of Wales; his powers were limited in view of a possible recovery of the king. George III, however, never recovered and on February 18 1812 all the restrictions on the Regent came to an end.

THE REGENT.
Yesterday being the day appointed for swearing in the Prince of Wales as Regent, about 12 o'clock a party of the flank companies of the Grenadiers, with their colours and the band of the 1st Regiment, marched into the Court-yard of Carlton-house, where the colours were pitched in the centre of the grand entrance. The band struck up God save the King and continued playing that piece, alternately with martial airs, till five o'clock. At a quarter before two o'clock, the Duke of Montrose arrived, being the first of the Privy Counsellors who attended; he was followed by all the Royal Dukes, and a very numerous assemblage of Privy Counsellors, who had all arrived by a quarter before three o'clock. The whole of the magnificent suite of state apartments were thrown open, and the most splendid assemblage of any kind in this country.

About half-past two o'clock, the Lord President of the Council obtained a private audience of the Prince to prepare his Royal Highness for the business that was about to be proceeded upon, in the same manner as the proceedings of a Council about to be held are laid before the King; which being done, the Prince retired to the State or Levee-room, where the Noble Personages assembled were so extremely numerous, that many retired to the anti-room. Soon after three o'clock the approach of the Prince to the State-room was announced, and immediately after his Royal Highness entered, attended by Lord Keith, Colonel Bloomfield and Macmahon, and two other attendants. His Royal Highness was dressed in full regimentals, and appeared in the best manner. He took his stand under the Throne, when those assembled made their obeisance to him; afterwards the Prince went round the room, and spoke to those assembled with his usual condescension. The Prince being over, the Prince signified his readiness to attend the Council, when the procession to the grand saloon, appointed for holding the Council, began to move in the following order:...

THE SLOW ARM OF THE LAW

By letting the time and motion money loose in the civil courts the Lord Chancellor hopes so begin a drive to eliminate unnecessary delays in the civil process of law in parallel with his attempts to speed up the process on the criminal side. Delays in criminal cases, which may mean prisoners being held on remand for a year or more without having been convicted of any offence, perhaps create injustice of an intensity without equal on the civil side. But the extent of injustice must be greater in the latter case, for it involves so many people among them not only actual litigants, but also unrecorded numbers who have a grievance, perhaps fully justified, but dare not invoke the law for fear of its expense and its long drawn-out uncertainty.

The Benson Royal Commission called in 1979 for action to speed up the system of civil law, and now at last is the Lord Chancellor swinging into action. He has been tactfully dissuaded from doing the whole job within his own department - which hardly had the resources or the innovative zest to do it satisfactorily. But he is keeping a close rein on the process, appointing a multidisciplinary team - which

will advise but not steer - of lawyers and laymen to oversee a three-stage process which will begin with those impudent time-and-motion studies, continue with a public rumination, and end back in the corridors of power with the Government selecting measures for legislation.

This programme will probably be starting in the right place, but it is doubtful whether its intended ending is right. At a seminar last autumn to spy out the land, the assembled lawyers agreed that their profession had unquestionably been exerting itself valiantly on this topic throughout the past century (no fewer than 38 reports between 1878 and 1979), but that the urgency of the problem had nevertheless increased to the point where tinkering was no longer enough.

Urgency in implementing reform is desirable. But the idea of a single burst of effort strictly limited in time is a wrong one. There is simply no hope of mopping up the whole subject in three years as proposed. A standing body, comparable to the Law Commission in its field,

is required to monitor the process continuously.

There is much detail to consider. At this stage it would be rash to assert too rigidly what needs to be done. Some measures seem obvious and relatively straightforward - fuller exchanges of information, for instance, so that cases do not come to court which would have been settled in advance if the parties had known the weight of the other side's evidence. The general insistence on oral evidence instead of written affidavits (which are used quite satisfactorily in matrimonial cases) is another time-waster. There are also more radical possibilities, such as wider use of conciliation services (cost-effective), and abandonment of the gladiatorial convention of adversarial pleading in cases which are like nuts under such a sledgehammer. These need deeper thought, and perhaps experimental introduction by stages. This makes another reason for a continuous monitoring, of course. Lord Hailsham has set in train a valuable process, but he (or his successor) must not be allowed to haul it to a stop again after just three years.

From the Reverend Brocard Sewell
Sir, Clifford Longley is surely right in saying ("A defeat in the jaws of victory" (January 31) that the Vatican has sustained a moral defeat through its heavy-handedness in the most recent phase of the Schillebeecx affair.

A curious sidelight is thrown on this controversy by the case of the Abbé Georges de Nantes, the distinguished French theologian, who for some years has been attempting, with no success, to persuade the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith to examine the encyclicals and allocutions of the present Pope, in which he claims to detect a humanistic *culte de l'homme* that is at variance with traditional orthodoxy.

The Abbé's *Liber Accusationis Secundus: Plainte pour hérésie, schisme et scandale à l'encontre de notre frère dans la foi Karol Wojtyla* is well known in Rome and has been widely read all over the Continent. It is not hard to see why the Sacred Congregation has so far refused to take cognizance of it beyond declaring the Abbé "disqualified": a sanction which he has rightly characterized as *pluôt sportif qu'ecclésiastique*. But is not such a situation of itself scandalous?

Yours faithfully,
BROCARD SEWELL,
Whitefriars School,
Charlton Kings,
Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire,
January 31.

Water boards' profits

From Mr A. R. Guy
Sir, In his letter (February 1) replying to your leader, "Taxman or waterman?" (January 31) Mr Ian Gow, Minister for Housing and Construction, claims that the rate of return made by Thames Water "by any standards is low". This calls for comment.

The accounts of water authorities are prepared on the same basis as those in the private sector. The application of current cost accounting in the industry generates extremely large asset values, about which there is a great degree of uncertainty, because many of the assets are underground, their age and condition is not known and their life expectancy cannot be judged.

The nationalised industries do not make a gearing adjustment to allow for the effect of inflation reducing the real burden of their debt. Their profits are therefore understated. For these reasons the rate of return figures which the Minister quotes do

not have any absolute significance.

Water authorities are monopoly suppliers of essential basic services, and the investment is without risk.

A proportion of water authorities' capital spending is involved in the fulfilment of their statutory responsibilities, which require that they provide water and sewerage facilities in areas where income from the consumers served will not meet the investment costs involved.

For these reasons it is reasonable to expect only a low return from the water industry.

Mr Gow's assertion is therefore misleading. The objective of the Government and the water industry together should be to provide an efficient service to the consumer, industrial and domestic, at a cost that is kept below the rate of inflation.

Yours faithfully,
A. R. GUY, Chairman,
Water Panel, Confederation of British Industry,
Centre Point,
New Oxford Street, WC1,
February 1.

copying industry have been largely eradicated, it probably true, he gives the erroneous impression that this is mainly due to the activities of the Federation against Copyright Theft.

There is no doubt that FACT's activities against organized crime in this sphere have resulted in many successful operations on behalf of the video companies, and much publicity. It may be of interest, however, for your readers to know the less publicised figures relating to action taken under the Trade Descriptions and Copyrights Acts by the UK's trading standards officers against video copying.

In the 30-month period to June 1984, trading standards departments obtained 5,610 convictions against 602 defendants, with a further 5,225 offences taken into consideration. Total fines and costs exceeded £300,000 and penalties included three custodial sentences. The value of seized goods was in excess of £1.25 million. (*Institute of Trading Standards Administration's Monthly Review*, November, 1984.)

Video copying may now be a diminishing industry, but other counterfeiting activities are diversifying and expanding into all areas of trade, as is well documented in *The Times*.

As with all crime, the public's eyes and ears are the first line of defence, and it is worth a reminder that any information passed to a local trading standards office can be acted upon quickly and effectively, to the immediate benefit of local consumers and the long-term benefit of all reputable traders.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. CLOTHIER,
4 Glen Road,
Burton Joyce,
Nottinghamshire.

Fear for bus network

From Mr B. J. Goodchild
Sir, Robin Cook's opinions seldom coincide with my own, but I believe his assessment (January 30) of this Government's attitude towards public transport and its passengers to be substantially accurate.

The Transport Secretary may be disinclined to pay much attention to Mr Cook, but he should take very seriously the views of the London Regional Passengers' Committee, who do not reflect political ideologies of either the right or left but simply represent bus users.

The committee found little to applaud and much to criticize in last year's White Paper, *Buses*.

Dr David Quarmy, the former Managing Director (Buses) London Transport, has pointed out that most passengers are not merely concerned with a single bus route but want an integrated network. This fact is demonstrated by the success of the system-wide season tickets introduced in London and elsewhere in recent years.

The Government's proposals for complete deregulation would fragment this country's bus network without imposing any requirement for co-ordination of fares, ticketing, marketing or timetable publication.

Most seriously, perhaps, the Government has failed to acknowledge the impossibility of running an efficient bus service, in either the financial or operational sense, in the face of the unrestrained traffic congestion.

Until this nettle is grasped, any attempt to alter the balance between private and public sector companies of the legal framework within which they operate will be an act of monumental irrelevance.

Yours faithfully,
B. J. GOODCHILD,
36 Hinton Road,
Wallington, Surrey.

Brave face on it

From Mrs John Miller
Sir, Your travel article (February 2) referred three times to elderly skiers as "wrinklies". As one whose face is fairly liberally creased I do not shrink from reality, but I find the growing use of this word to describe old people both patronising and rude.

We do not, after all, refer to our teenage friends as "acknies"; a little reciprocal politeness would be nice.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTIAN MILLER,
The Old Stables,
Newtown,
Newbury, Berkshire.

A LAST CHANCE FOR LONDON

A pedestrian crossing in Putney; traffic bollards in Barking; the length of the grass on Hampstead Heath; pension payments to a retired fireman in Hounslow; garbage disposal in Bexleyheath; these things matter, but matter only locally. They are for the town hall or county offices. They are not the business of ministers and permanent secretaries. Yet here is the future for London offered by the Local Government Bill. Never mind its issues of principle, or executive power grown out of all proportion. Let all of us, citizens, road-users, London Members of Parliament with post-bags big enough already, contemplate the practical consequence of a bill that so over-loads central government with functions.

Committee debate on the abolition bill is, as expected, to be languidly long, before the shape of London's government after the Greater London Coun-

cil can be decided. Is London an administrative entity? Ministers dither, because if it is not, why do they want all these joint boards, quangos and reserve powers to make arrangements across the entire capital? Why not trust the boroughs as the government's devolutionist prospectus has always said?

Bluntly, London's future governance looks a mess and, worse, an expensive mess - however deep the costs of the various successor bodies will be buried in different accounts and separate rate levies. But things are not irredeemable. Mr Alan Greengross, leader of the GLC's Conservatives, has just published a sketch for a slim non-executive London-wide authority with a small number of directly elected members; it would oversee the operations of special agencies for fire, waste disposal and other functions (some of which could functionally

be performed by private contractors). The scheme is imperfect. Questions about budget and financial supervision need to be answered. But it contains enough good sense for Mr Patrick Jenkin both to study it and devote some of the resources of his department to filling in its gaps; at least he should do is consider, at the bill's report stage, Mr Greengross's plea for accountable government.

Which must mean, he says, direct elections and the possibility that electors will choose unattractive, even extremist candidates. But let the wisdom of their choice be upon the heads - and preferably the purses - of local government electors. Far, far better that problems of grass, traffic lights and refuse be thrown at an elected London-wide authority, whatever its eventual political colour, than that they be allowed to clog the arteries of the nation's government.

From Mr P. J. Clothier
Sir, Although Peter Waymark's conclusion in Saturday's article (January 19) on video piracy, that the worst excesses of the organized

Our research is saving lives..... that's worth a lot more than the Government's limited list.



Since the 1940s an estimated 500,000 British babies and children have been saved from death by the products of the pharmaceutical industry.

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Now, in order to cut public spending, the government plans to limit the range of medicines available on the NHS. Many valuable treatments would, if the government's plan is accepted, be available

only to those who can afford to pay privately.

It is not just NHS care and the freedom of British doctors that these proposals would harm. If the government undermines the British-based pharmaceutical industry then we shall no longer be able to fund the research you want to see in the war against disease.

Help us to fight against the cancers, the virus infections, the mental illnesses and the types of arthritis for which no cure yet exists. Write to your MP and oppose the government's 'limited list' attack on British medicines.



Fighting for a healthier future.

The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry.

Picture: Suresh Karada and Laurie Spence

Showing the world why they mean business



Britain's polytechnics have been under considerable pressure in the past few years to prove their worth. Faced with cuts in their public funding and instructed by the Government to become much more market-oriented in their choice of courses, they have had to rethink their priorities and learn to survive in a tougher and more bracing climate.

The inauguration of the Middlesex Business School, which takes place today, is an example of how one of Britain's better polytechnics is responding to the challenge.

The decision to redesignate Middlesex Polytechnic's fast-growing faculty of business studies and management as a business school was formally taken by the academic board and board of governors last May. The change of title is the culmination of five years of hard work and determination which have seen the business studies faculty grow into one of the three largest anywhere in Britain.

With nearly 3,000 students enrolled on 25 courses, the new Business School is also the biggest of the polytechnic's six faculties. Its intake of students has risen by 30 per cent in the past five years, and it is now half as large again as any of the other five faculties.

Polytechnics have had image problems

It provides a wide variety of both subjects and qualifications, ranging from the Ordinary B/Tec Diploma up to Ph.Ds, in a mixture of part-time and sandwich courses.

Professor Don Harper, Dean of the Business School, and the man who has presided over this rapid expansion, is hoping the change of name to Business School will show the outside world the nature of the polytechnic's business studies set-up more clearly. Both he and Dr Raymond Rickett, director of the polytechnic, concede that polytechnics have had image problems in the past.

"Changing the name to Business School is a public affirmation of our policies and purpose," says Professor Harper. "It shows that our aim is not the academic study of business disciplines such as economics. It is the production of graduates who have a real and useful understanding of business."

"We are trying to get across the message that we are here to serve the needs of industry, commerce and the profession rather than to develop academic disciplines for their own sake."

The emphasis on applied rather than pure learning is very much characteristic of the Middlesex approach to business studies, being reflected both in the structure of their courses and in their continuing efforts to develop closer links with the industrial and professional employers on whom increasingly their future depends.

Professor Harper makes no bones about the fact that the Business School's guiding philosophy is based on practical necessity as well as good educational theory. Business studies is one subject which the Government's National Advisory Board - the controlling body and chief source of public funding for polytechnics - has been willing to see expand in the past few years, at a time when other subjects have been trimmed or dropped on the grounds of being too remote from what employers really want.

But this relative degree of official favour has not spared either the Business School or the polytechnic from a severe cut in the amount of public funding they have to live on.

The polytechnic's budget has been cut for the past three years running, and the business studies faculty has seen its full-time staff numbers, for example, cut from 70 to 61, despite the 50 per cent increase in students.

"We have had no difficulty in getting the student number targets we need from the National Advisory Board," says Professor Harper. "Our main constraint has been in space and facilities we have - and we have already built new lecture theatres and computer

rooms - but we have not been able to do as much as we wanted because of the cutbacks."

The only answer is more private sector funding. Professor Harper says: "The challenge we face is to consolidate our position with respect to the industries and professions that we serve. We must build on the links that we have to attract more funding."

We can only do that if we are seen to provide industry with what it needs in terms of industrial training and research. We have the foundation. It is a question of building on that foundation."

been instrumental in bringing the faculty to its new size and status. The first was his decision to institute a Master of Business Administration degree, the flagship, so to speak, of any business school. The distinctive feature of the Middlesex degree is that it is part-time - as such it was the first of its kind in Britain - and open only to those with at least three years' practical experience in industry or the professions. It is tailor-made in effect for those managers who want to broaden their horizons and pull themselves up the corporate ladder.

The second step, and by far the harder, was to persuade the polytechnic to concentrate all its business studies activity on a single site. Middlesex Polytechnic has suffered more than most from geographical dispersion. As it is an amalgam of several different colleges, its sites are scattered over a 100-square-mile area of north London.

Professor Harper's achievement was to win the internal argument and establish the business studies faculty on one site, at Hendon, where it remains.

The site is a good one, being in a heavily populated area and one where local industry and employment, even if the dialogue with local employers is not as good by the school's own admission, as it might be. Improving the links is now one of Professor Harper's priorities.

In arranging its course structure, Middlesex Business School has by no means divorced itself from the rest of the polytechnic, of which it is still an integral part. No less than

45 per cent of the teaching in the Business School is drawn from other faculties, particularly social sciences, humanities and engineering, science and mathematics.

The courses are based around a number of main disciplines, some of which are particular areas of specialization which have emerged at Middlesex over the years. One of these is hotel and catering administration, which has been taught at Hendon for more than 35 years, long before the polytechnic, let alone the Business School, came into existence.

The Business School is also proud of the international flavour it is able to achieve through its pioneering European going for 10 years and involves students from both France and Germany, along with students from Middlesex. This intensive four-year course covers language teaching as well as management, accounting and computing.

The Business School is now pressing ahead with a number of schemes to internationalize other courses as well.

The curriculum also includes basic courses in law and accounting, management studies, marketing, mathematics for business and the fastest growing area of all - computer studies.

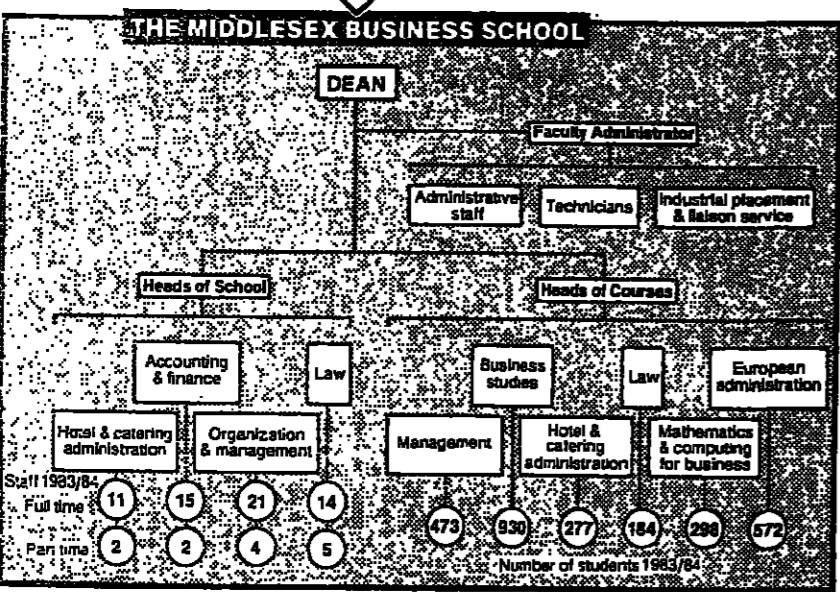
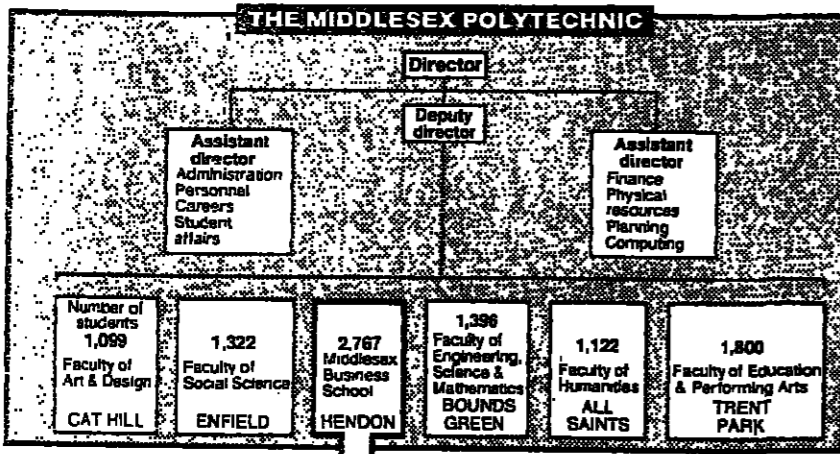
The college is aware of the changing world

"It is our policy," says Professor Harper, "that no one should leave this establishment without some experience in information technology."

The school has also made successful attempts in the past five years to build up its research and consultancy activities, and now has around 25 students doing M. Phil or Ph.D. degrees, all primarily geared to specific industrial projects. It remains the case, however, that the Business School accounts for only a small proportion of the £3 million of research and consultancy income which the polytechnic as a whole brings in annually to supplement its funds from public sources, and this is something which it hopes to improve.

What strikes the visitor most about this newest addition to Britain's list of business schools is its evident awareness of the way in which the world around it is changing - and its determination to adapt to the new circumstances.

Jonathan Davis
Financial Correspondent



Bigger by degrees: Professor Don Harper, who presides over the boom in business studies and change of image

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SPECIAL REPORT

MIDDLESEX BUSINESS SCHOOL/2

On line for a fully computered future

Computing is an essential part of any business studies course and Middlesex is no exception. The polytechnic has a DEC 10 mainframe computer, which can support up to 120 users at any time.

In the Business School itself a new super mini-computer, the DEC Vax 11/750, has been installed and is being used on a research project.

There are two terminal rooms at Hendon, containing 12 terminals each, with either printing facilities or visual display units. In addition to these are the packages offered on the DEC 10 mainframe computer, several microcomputers are housed in the Business School, including Commodore 8032 PETS, Digital PC350s and Sirius microcomputers. The school has also recently acquired a Wicat 150 multi-user microcomputer.

A variety of computing and mathematics courses is offered at Middlesex, some at the Business School's Hendon site, some elsewhere within the polytechnic.

Throughout, there is emphasis on the need to supply students with the necessary skills to meet the requirements of business. It is a deliberate policy to offer a range of equipment to students so that, when employed within an organization, they are able to judge and advise on the technical characteristics of different types.

The Bachelor of Science in Mathematics for Business courses, run at the Business School, lasts four years. The third year is spent in industry.

Middlesex, building on the links established by its BA in European Business Admin-



Keying in: Student Sheyda Farhat in the computer graphic room and, right, the terminal room

stration course, can offer students the option of spending this sandwich year with a French company.

The course itself comprises computing, operational research, statistics, econometrics, economics and numerical analysis, together with a fourth-year specialization.

The Introduction to Electronic Data Processing course is a one-year, part-time programme specifically designed for those people whose work is bringing them increasingly into

contact with computers, but who have received no formal training in their use.

The course acts as a preliminary year for the British Computer Society's examinations. Students wanting to move on from this introductory course to the British Computer Society examinations can do so at Middlesex.

Other courses available include the Higher National Certificate and Higher National Diploma in Computer Studies.

the Higher National Certificate in Mathematics, Statistics and Computing, and the Bachelor of Education course in computer education.

Computing plays a large part in the non-specialist business studies courses at the Business School itself. In 1983, a faculty computing development plan was drawn up, emphasizing the need for all students to leave the Business School with both a high level of computer awareness and practical ability to use computers.

Since then the computer input to courses has been strengthened, while tuition has been provided to bring non-specialist staff up to date with computing developments, as well as students.

The Dean, Professor Don Harper, stresses the need to update continually and add to the computer facilities available at Middlesex. This is an essential element in the computing development plan.

DS

A 'dramatic' rise in efficiency

The 25 courses on offer at Middlesex Business School fall into six main categories: management, business studies, hotel and catering administration, law, mathematics and computing for business, and European business administration. They are a mixture of part-time, full-time and sandwich courses.

According to an internal report produced last summer the largest number of students are on the business studies courses, which include two BA courses in Business Studies, part-time and full-time, and two full-time courses in accounting — BA Accounting and Finance, and Fundamentals of Accounting. The total number on these courses in the 1983-84 year was 930.

The next most popular courses were the European Business Administration degree, with 572 students, followed by Management Studies with 473, a third of whom were studying for the part-time Master of Business Administration, the centrepiece of the Business School's course structure.

Hotel and Catering Administration had 277 students, slightly fewer than the Mathematics and Computing for Business courses, which had 298 students. The most popular of these was the BSc in

Mathematics for Business, which attracted 130 students. Finally there were 184 students reading for the BA in Law.

The financial squeeze of the past few years means staff numbers have dropped, with posts falling vacant often not being filled. Full-time staff were down from 70 to 61 in the five years, to last April. The number of administrative and technical staff was down from 25 to 22 over the same period. There has been a slight increase in the amount of part-time staff.

This decline, coupled with the sharp rise in student numbers on the business courses, has inevitably led to big changes in the staff-student ratios.

The number of students per member of staff has risen by roughly 50 per cent since 1978, an increase that has taken the Business School from somewhere below the yardstick set by the Government's National Advisory Board to well above it.

Professor Harper calls it "a dramatic improvement in efficiency, which has also been matched by that of the polytechnic as a whole."

The challenge facing the Business School is to ensure that it is able to maintain academic standards at a satisfactory level against this background.

The advantage of the big changes is that the Business School will remain a priority area as and when new funds become available because its staffing levels are above the targets set nationally.

JD

Why Europeans are drawn to the executive course

Middlesex Polytechnic has long looked towards the Continent and is proud of its specialist course for the Euro-executives of the future, the Bachelor of Arts in European Business Administration. "It is unique in Western Europe and probably unique in the world," says Mr Gerard Earls, head of the course at Middlesex.

Middlesex started to put out feelers among like-minded institutions in France in the early 1970s. After knocking on several doors, it settled on l'Ecole Supérieure de Commerce at Reims. The course began in 1974 as a project between France and Britain. Later, the Fachhochschule of Reutlingen, West Germany, joined the scheme.

There are 700 people on the course, which lasts four years, taking either the Anglo-French, the Anglo-German or the Franco-German options.

The budding Euro-executive at Middlesex thus spends half his or her time at Middlesex, including a period of industrial placement; the other half in either France or Germany, including a period of industrial placement with a French or German company.

Entry requirements are tough and often British entrants start at a disadvantage compared with their west European counterparts, partly because of



Gerard Earls: Training the future Euro-executives

inferior language teaching in Britain.

The course involves around nine hours of language teaching a week, so any disadvantage on entry should soon disappear. And the prospect of competing with the best French and German students has not deterred people. For 90 places last year Middlesex received more than 1,600 applications.

From Middlesex's point of view it is flattering to see similar courses now being set up by rival institutions. Even so, Mr Earls still regards the Middlesex BA in European Business Administration as having something special to offer. The school is trying to extend the European content of its Master of Business Administration course.

The BA in European Business Administration, for a Middlesex student, begins with one month's intensive language training at either ESC Reims or Reutlingen. After this month-long course, about half the students return to Hendon, while the other half remain in either France or Germany for the first two years of their course.

Spending time with foreign firms

In the first year, the students take courses in computing, European studies, an introduction to the theory of the company, quantitative methods, behavioural science and economics, in addition to intensive language training.

The second year begins with a 24-week industrial placement period. For those students who have stayed in France or Germany, this means time with a French or German company. For those who have returned, Middlesex finds no difficulty in obtaining industrial placements for its students.

The students switch locations at the end of the second year and continue in the third year with the business studies subjects, as well as undertaking a second 24-week period of industrial placement.

The final year of the course, with examinations at the end, involves two specialized subjects from marketing, accountancy, manpower studies, EEC law, international finance and production management.

At the end of the course, students emerge with a BA in European Business Administration from Middlesex and either a French *Diplôme* or German *Diplom*, qualifications which add considerably to the marketability of graduates.

The students — emerging with practical business experience both here and on the Continent, fluency in two languages and a business studies qualification —

should certainly be marketable. Mr Earls tells the story of a French student who has been taken on by a German company to buy material in Britain. The course is not, it appears, designed for the budding export salesman or, at least, only very few of Middlesex's graduates take such a career route.

It is perhaps a reflection on British industry's ambivalent attitude towards the EEC that the greatest demand for Middlesex's BA (European Administration) students in the early years was from European companies.

Despite pressure to increase the number of places on the course, Middlesex and its partners are constrained by the availability of teaching staff, finance and facilities.

DS

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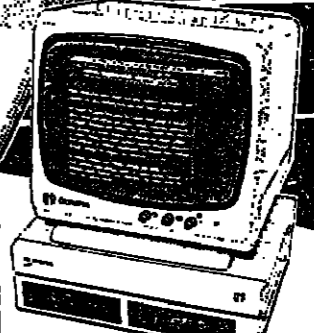


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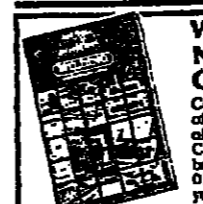
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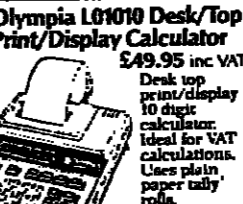


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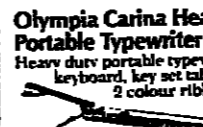
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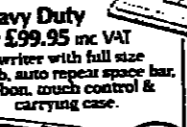
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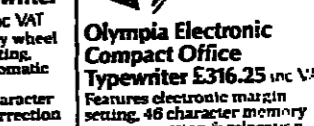
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MIDDLESEX BUSINESS SCHOOL/3

(SPECIAL REPORT)



Taste buddies: Neil Martin, Peter Martin and Caroline Woodford at work

Catering to do the books

Hotel and catering has been taught at Hendon since the Second World War, well before the polytechnic came into being. Now a wide range of courses is being run, and more developed, with an emphasis on Europe.

"At Middlesex, we specialize in supervisory management courses," says Mr Paul Lock, head of the hotel and catering department. "All our teaching staff have a background in the industry."

And those staff know that success in the catering business depends on more than just knowing how to cook vegetables.

Mr Paul Merricks, a senior lecturer on the B.Sc course in hotel and catering administration, said: "There is a common misunderstanding that hotel and catering courses are about cooking and serving food. Not here. We have a wide range of courses covering business policy, manpower control, etc."

In addition to Mr Merricks's course, Middlesex offers the Business and Technician Education Council (BTEC) Higher National Diploma in hotel, catering and institutional management; the Membership of the Hotel, Catering and Institutional Management Association (MHCIMA) course; and the BTEC diploma in hotel, catering and institutional operation.

One of Middlesex's undoubted advantages is its proximity to central London. This is not only very helpful for industrial placements, but it provides the teaching staff with ready examples.

Middlesex has also carried the international flavour of many of its other courses into the department.

A key point about the B.Sc in hotel and catering administration is its French content. Part of the third year of the four-year course, is spent in a French hotel or restaurant. Language training is an integral part of the course.

Middlesex has established a link with a French hotel and

catering school, the Lycée Polyvalent de Shamalières. "The period of industrial placement in France, together with modern European languages helps create an internationally mobile manager," Mr Lock says.

Like other departments in the Business School, consultancy work is important to hotel and catering. The department recently completed a research project on manpower projections in the industry.

The hotel and catering department is in an expanding phase. "The manufacturing base of the country may be declining, but service industries are expanding," says Mr Merricks. "You only have to look at the effect of the dollar/pound exchange rate."

Although the emphasis is on management training, the smell of cooking pervades the hotel and catering department. There is an experimental kitchen, allowing the students to cook food in different ways, with each appliance attached to accurate electricity or gas meters in order to give a precise measure of the amount of energy using in different type of cooking.

The students get practical training on site, including running a restaurant for staff and students, and a fast food outlet. If nothing else, this gives them an early insight into consumer criticism.

Link man with a lifeline



Image maker: Chris Spencer

No business school can hope to flourish if it neglects its contacts with industry and commerce, the outside reality for which it is, after all, meant to be preparing its students, writes Jonathan Davis. The need to establish better contacts with the outside world is behind Middlesex Business School's decision to establish a special "Industrial liaison service".

Though its primary function is to help find places in industry for the increasing number of students who want to do "sandwich courses", the liaison service is also intended to improve the two-way flow of ideas and personal contact between the school and employers, particularly locally. Its profile is higher than it was, but there is an acceptance that the Business School must become much better known.

The head of the liaison service is Chris Spencer, a former student at Middlesex Polytechnic who returned in January last year after working for eight years for the John Lewis chain.

"I worked four miles down the road from here, but I have to admit that if I had not been a student of the Middlesex Poly myself, I would hardly have been aware it was there."

Mr Spencer and his three colleagues in the liaison service are therefore stepping up their visits to local firms, as well as speaking at conferences and talking to the companies which take its students on sandwich courses.

For the present, the work of the liaison service continues to be dominated by the need to find job places for sandwich-course students. The number doing these courses - which combine two or three years of classroom and academic education with a year's practical job experience in industry - has grown rapidly in the last few years. Each year Middlesex Business School has up to 500 students looking for places.

Between 100 and 120 of the students seeking places each year are on in hotel and catering courses, while the remainder are from four other main courses: the BA in European Business Administration, the BA in Business Studies, the BSc in Mathematics for Business, and the HND in Business Studies. The

Industrial liaison service tries to follow up its students' progress by sending questionnaires to employers about their placement experience. Last year 70 per cent replied. The replies showed that more than 40 per cent of the Middlesex students exceeded the employers' expectations, and another 54 per cent matched them, leaving only 6 per cent whose performance was considered disappointing.

Mr Spencer is trying to improve the take-up from employers in the Business School's own immediate locality. "Bearing in mind that this is an area where there is a lot of local industry, I was surprised when I took over to find that the number of students we had placed locally was quite small," Mr Spencer says. "This is something we are hoping to change." The liaison service is also encouraging more students to make their own direct approaches to employers.

How 10,000 spend their time off

With Middlesex's 10,000 students spread over six sites - linked by some of Britain's most congested roads - social life can be a problem. The students' union organizes dances, concerts and other events, and the college provides a free minibus service between sites.

Once a year the Business School's students meet "leams" from Germany and France in an academic version of "Jeux Sans Frontières" - a BA (European Business Administration) course is run jointly with the Rentlingen Fachhochschule in Germany and the ESC Management Centre in Reims, France. More than 40 sports can be played at Middlesex, which has sports halls at most sites.

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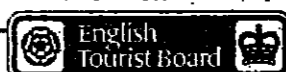
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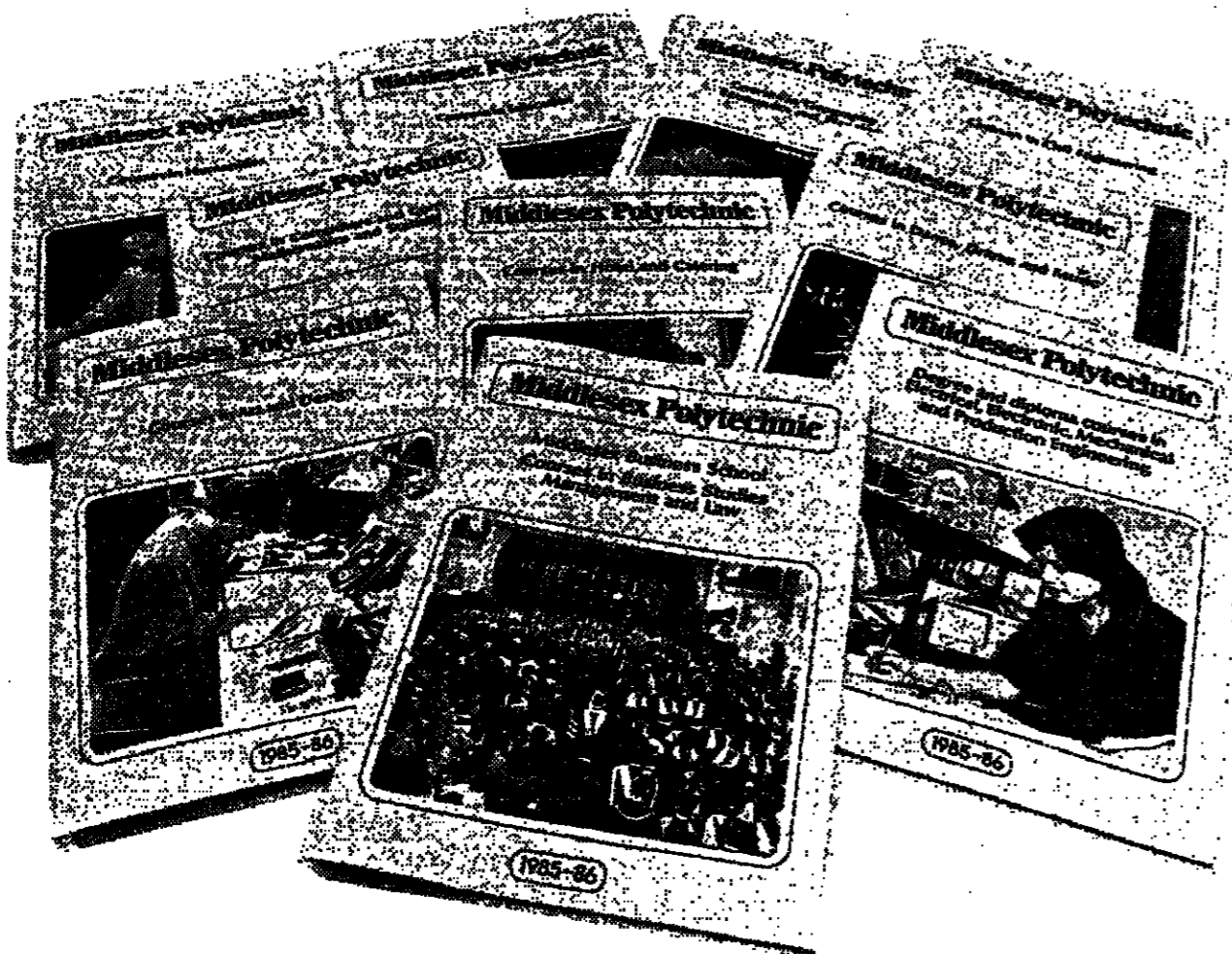
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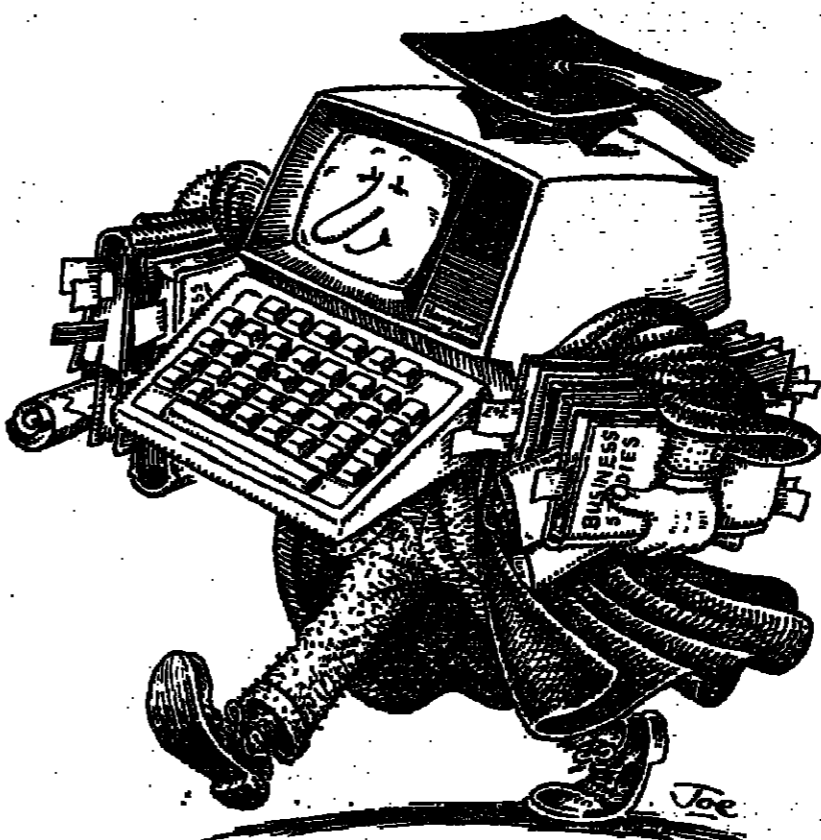
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SPECIAL REPORT

MIDDLESEX BUSINESS SCHOOL/4

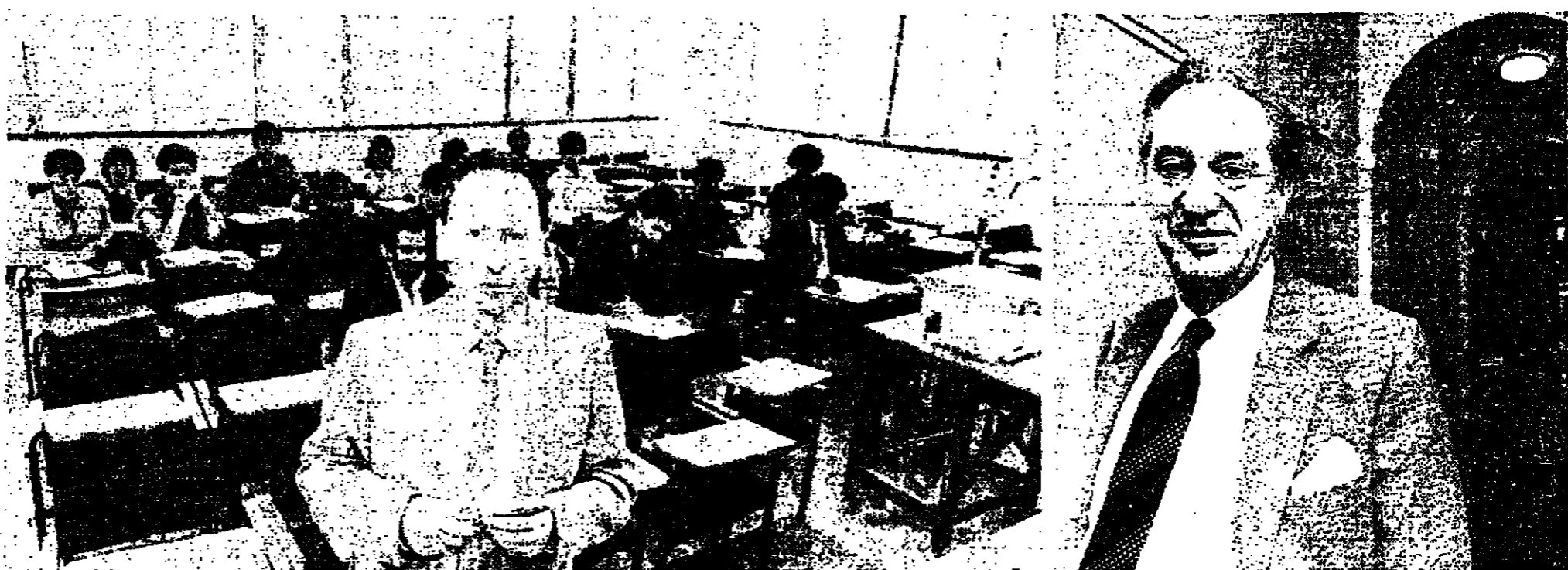
The making of our model master managers

The Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree is the cornerstone of any business school, and there is little doubt that an MBA from Middlesex Business School sounds more impressive than one from plain old Middlesex Polytechnic.

Designation as a business school is crucially important to the reputation of the MBA, says Dr Bernard James, head of the course. "An MBA from something which is not a business school is something of an anomaly. London and Manchester were, after all, established to offer MBA degrees."

business-studies degree can skip this first-year and enter at the beginning of the second. The second and third years of the course are concerned with business problems analysis, a series of course modules developed at Middlesex which examine key decision areas in business. The emphasis is on problems managers are likely to face - alternative solutions are examined and analysed.

In the second and third years students also take an option in either operations management, financial management, management studies or marketing.



Men of business: Dr Bernard James, head of the MBA course and, right, polytechnic director Raymond Rickett

The Middlesex MBA was established in 1981, and was then the first evening-only MBA course in southern England. The City University Business School has since introduced an evening MBA.

To enter the course, students require an honours degree or equivalent professional qualification. Perhaps more importantly, Middlesex insists in most cases that its course entrants have had practical working experience in management.

Many of the people on the course are professional managers in either the public or private sectors, although Middlesex encourages others whose work brings them into contact with management, including trade union officials, to enrol on the course.

There are two levels of entry to the programme. The first year is spent on general business studies, courses, including the company and its economics, environment, organizational behaviour, accounting and business finance, quantitative methods, legal aspects of business and an introduction to interdisciplinary problems.

Managers with a specialist

Teaching is for two evenings a week, with three hours teaching per evening. In the first year there is a residential weekend and in the second year a residential week of study.

Dr James says: "We believe that we are offering a service which is much more easily accessible to managers than other forms of MBA programme."

Interest has grown steadily. Four years ago, when the course was started, Middlesex received 230 applications. For the current year's course, which began last month, more than 500 applications were received.

There are around 55 places for first-year students, and 65 for those entering direct at the start of the second year. Thus, Middlesex is aiming at 100 MBA graduates a year.

One common criticism of MBA courses is that they fail to produce graduates who possess the qualities and attitude required by industry.

This was one of the points made by the management

consultants Harbridge House in a critical assessment of Britain's business schools and their MBAs, published last year.

The essence of the Harbridge House criticisms was that British business schools had failed to adapt the MBA, basically an American concept, to suit the needs of British industry.

In addition, Harbridge House pointed out that when the Franks report on management education was published in 1963 - a report which led directly to the setting-up of the London and Manchester Business Schools - it was envisaged that Britain would be producing at least 2,000 MBAs annually by the late 1970s.

Only now, with recent courses such as Middlesex's, is the number scraping up to around 1,500.

The Middlesex MBA, it is argued, avoids the problem of remoteness from industry's needs for three reasons. The first is that the course is part-time, with most of the students

involved in day-to-day management problems.

Secondly, all the teachers on the Middlesex MBA course have come to teaching from a practical business background, and so draw on their own experience to assess industry's needs.

Thirdly, the Business School has, through its regular programme of industrial placements, built up close contacts with a wide range of companies.

Time will tell whether Middlesex has succeeded in producing a course which turns out MBAs who can quickly slot into key management positions.

The other criticism of British MBAs - that there are not enough of them - is partly answered by the setting-up of part-time courses, which tend to be more flexible in numbers than their full-time counterparts. On the other hand, the drop-out rate tends to be higher on part-time courses.

David Smith
Economics Correspondent

The tempo rises as the axe falls

These are not the happiest of times for those in higher education, and Middlesex Polytechnic is no exception in having suffered from the spending cuts of the past few years. Its budget has been cut for the past three years, staffing levels have been forced down, and the casual visitor is soon aware that retrenchment is in the air.

Dr Raymond Rickett, director of the polytechnic since its incorporation in 1973, makes no bones about the fact that, in common with other polys, Middlesex is increasingly having to rely on funds it can attract from non-government sources.

At the moment it is earning around £3 million in addition to its government grant, mostly from research and consultancy work for industry. "Without that money we would not have been able to survive and produce the results we have," says Dr Rickett. "The challenge now is to earn more funds of our own."

"We are not ballyhooing about what has happened," said Dr Rickett. "In fact we welcome the challenge of having to go out and earn money in the market place. It allows us to check that what we have on offer is what the world out there wants."

Middlesex has one of the better academic records in the polytechnic sector. In two of the past three years it has topped the list for the number of first class honours degrees obtained.

Unofficial surveys - by *The Sunday Times*, for example - suggest that Middlesex Polytechnic students have been more successful than most when it comes to finding jobs. And the college does not suffer from any general shortage of applicants seeking places: many of them are heavily oversubscribed.

The Business School at Hendon is the largest of the six faculties, with 2,767 students last year - bigger, as Dr Rickett points out, than some of the smaller universities. The other five faculties at the polytechnic are: Engineering, Science and Mathematics, based at Bounds Green (1,396 students); Humanities at White Hart Lane, Tottenham (1,122 students); Social Science at Enfield (1,322); Education and Performing Arts at Trent Park, Barnet (1,800); and Art and Design, at Cai Hill, Barnet (1,099).

An estimated 22 per cent of students come from nearby, and there is accommo-

modation for around 900 students.

Dr Rickett admits that one of the reasons behind the change of name for the business studies faculty is an attempt to escape the old polytechnic image. That image of the second-class university - or something even worse - dies hard.

Dr Rickett cites a recent poll of MPs and other public figures, in which 60 per cent of this group showed they were not aware that polytechnics even offered degree courses. In fact, the top four polytechnics do more degrees than all but the 10 biggest universities.

Middlesex has been sufficiently image-conscious to be changing not just the title of the Business School, but that of the whole institution: Middlesex Polytechnic University is one possibility.

The funding disparity between universities and polytechnics remains a source of contention. As Professor Don Harper says: "We get around £2,500 per year per student whereas the universities get £4,400 per student - yet we are required to educate students to the same level and to the same standard."

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NORTH THAMES GAS

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Middlesex Polytechnic earns around £3 million annually in outside consultancy work, which supplements state funding as well as keeping the academic staff in close contact with the business world.

Indeed, the Business School, where many of the consultancies are carried out, tries to make its staff business-orientated.

The range of consultancy projects under way at Middlesex is wide. The Business School has received £60,000 from the English Tourist Board to establish a data bank for the marketing of conference centres. An earlier project, for the Hotel and Catering Industry Training Board, examined the training provided and needed in that business.

Dr Alan Stainer, an accountancy lecturer who specializes in the economics of mining, worked on a project at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's jet propulsion laboratory in California, and was later retained as a consultant.

Mr David Sugarman, a reader in law at the Business School, is undertaking work for the Commonwealth Secretariat on the legal regulation of multinational companies.

Two of the Business School's taxation specialists, Mr David Mitcheson and Mr Richard Jones, run a tax consultancy service.

Mr Mitcheson, who is head of business courses at the Business School and a former tax inspector, advises clients on their tax affairs, specializing in the tax consequences of divorce. He also runs a redundancy counselling service for local employers.

Mr Jones, as well as advising clients, runs a readers' inquiry service on taxation matters for a newspaper.

The Business School's taxation specialists run a fortnightly evening seminar on taxation and company law for solicitors and accountants, answering detailed legal and tax questions.

Dr Colin Jones, head of accountancy at the Business School, has advised five Indonesian universities on accountancy teaching and advised the Indonesian state oil company.

Professor Don Harper is conducting a study on the effectiveness of safety training in the mining industries of Britain, France, Germany and Belgium, in a £40,000 project financed by the EEC.

The Business School's attitude to consultancy work is that it both complements and enhances business teaching, and underlines the "business orientation" of the School.

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Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend. TOBACCOS section.

THE TIMES Portfolio

DAILY DIVIDEND £4,000

Claims required for +35 points

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend. OIL section.

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend. OVERSEAS TRADERS section.

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend. PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'S section.

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend. LEISURE section.

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend. PROPERTY section.

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend. SHIPPING section.

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend. SHOES AND LEATHER section.

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend. TEXTILES section.

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend. TOBACCOS section.

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

The arrow pointing at Guinness Peat's heart

Guinness Peat stepped up the pressure on Britannia Arrow yesterday by declaring its intention to buy another slug of shares in Britannia from the company's second largest shareholder, London and Manchester Assurance, Britannia's biggest shareholder. United Kingdom Terenure and General Provident Institution (UKPI) has already conditionally agreed to exchange its stake for shares in Guinness Peat.

The identical deal which Guinness Peat has now struck with London and Manchester involves a further 5 million Britannia shares and means that Guinness Peat could end up with 26.8 per cent of Britannia, or 28 per cent on conversion of loan stock.

The significance of yesterday's announcement is largely psychological. It drives home the point that Britannia cannot count on London and Manchester's backing against Guinness Peat, Guinness Peat and London and Manchester of course, share a common director in the form of John Thomson.

London and Manchester, is still left with 5.5 per cent of Britannia's ordinary shares and £5 million of 9 per cent convertible loan stock.

There is clearly no wish in the Britannia camp to be associated with Guinness Peat, notwithstanding merger talks the two groups had prior to Britannia's acquiring Sirger & Friedlander in February last year. Britannia appears to resent UKPI's decision to sell its 22.8 per cent stake to Guinness Peat: it is said that UKPI's chairman, Stamp Brooksbank, cannot stand Sir Geoffrey Rippon, his opposite number at Britannia.

Guinness Peat has neither the size nor the credibility to make an outright bid for the balance of Britannia's shares but it obviously cannot rule out a bid at some time. Meanwhile it would face the possibility of Guinness Peat selling its shareholding to a buyer and at a time that might not suit Britannia.

While Britannia might prefer to visualize Guinness Peat as a stand-off shareholder, it would find itself in a situation that was neither stable nor secure.

If no friendly bidder steps in to buy Britannia before March 8 when Guinness Peat's share exchange agreement with UKPI takes effect, might Britannia, in extremis, bid for Guinness Peat? Hostile feelings apart the answer is surely no, not least because of the question mark over the future worth of Guinness Peat and the prospective value of its shares.

The query is concealed in note 25 of the 1984 report and accounts, which perhaps is not as extraordinary as it appears because Coopers & Lybrand, the auditors, has presumably agreed that words of such stunning opacity are entirely permissible. The relevant paragraph reads:

"A subsidiary is contracted to purchase a minority shareholding in a management service company at a price which may be material to be determined by reference to earnings over 10 years to 1989. Payment will be made for this purchase in two stages, the first in 1987 and the second in 1990."

Although difficult to guess, it is widely believed that this contract is the crucial agreement with the team at Fenchurch Insurance, the insurance broking subsidiary that has been the one consistent light in Guinness Peat's long dark night. In 1983-84 for example, Fenchurch made £6.1 million out of a group profit, excluding banking, of £12.4 million.

The senior management, which came from Blend Welch in a block is due huge performance-related sums, which will have a considerable impact either on Guinness Peat's financial position or its equity capital. It is the sort of contingent liability which ought to be spelled out in some detail.

The London stock market is exhibiting multiplying signs that it has reached a classic bull peak. Among the strongest of these is the phenomenon of high-growth sectors hitting problems, causing disappointment and consequent loss of confidence.

ence in investor's hearts. This time round it is the micro computer market which has led the pack and is now falling to earth at a alarming rate.

It has always been recognized since the birth of the home computer that it would be a risky haven for investors. But the savage reaction in the shares of Acorn Computers in recent weeks shows how nervous the City has become. While the company would say yesterday only that it intended to "reorganise its affairs", rumours of a difficult Christmas have been lent flesh by news of redundancies and the resignations of Acorn's two leading financial advisers. The stock market's view of these developments is all the gloomier for the fact that the advisers in question are the stockbrokers Cazenove and Co and the merchant bank Lazard Brothers—names of repute and renowned judgment.

Their departures, for whatever reasons, comes at a particularly bad time for Acorn and the computer market in general. Acorn shares have come down from 193p to 28p, the point at which dealings were suspended at 2.52 pm yesterday.

This is being seen as the latest in an ominous sequence of events for an industry which did not exist until it was invented by Sir Clive Sinclair in 1980. Dragon Data went into receivership last summer, followed by a rival micro maker, Oric, in the past few weeks. Prism, a distributor of Sinclair computers, went the same way last week. Commodore and Atari, two of the biggest US competitors, have laid off staff from their European operations.

Acorn was thought to be immune from such measures because of its seemingly priceless contract to manufacture the BBC micro and the ready-made schools outlets which went with that. But with some prescience Christopher Curry, Acorn's managing director, was reported as saying a few days ago: "The popular games playing market has become a very uncomfortable place to be."

While Mr Curry wrestles with Acorn's future, his former employers and arch rival, Sir Clive Sinclair, must be having mixed feelings. On the one hand Acorn's plight may offer him a glorious trading opportunity, yet on the other it can only mar even further the backdrop to his plans to float his immensely successful company, Sinclair Research.

Standards of a golden 1810

As if the Chancellor did not have enough modern advice on how he has mismanaged the exchange rate, a seminal document of the monetarist faith has been disseminated by the Adam Smith Institute. The 1810 Report of the Bullion Committee makes entertaining reading today. At that time, the exchange rate was falling in the sense that the gold price was rising. Bad money was driving out good: gold coins were disappearing out of circulation, to be (illegally) melted down into more valuable bullion.

The Bullion Committee rejected the notion that the gold price was rising for reasons to do with shortages and the disruption of trade in wartime and laid the blame squarely on the over-issue of paper currency. The committee's answer, not applied until after the end of the Napoleonic wars, was to re-establish convertibility of paper money into gold. No other method was possible, in the committee's view, to ensure that the money supply was contained since "it is vain to think that any rules could be devised for the exact exercise of such discretion."

Could not the Bank of England be expected to control the money supply? According to the committee, the Bank's directors "showed a great anxiety to state to the committee a doctrine, the truth of which they possessed themselves to be most thoroughly convinced; that there can be no possible excess in the issue of Bank of England paper, so long as the advances in which it is issued are made upon the principles which at present guide the conduct of the directors".

Banks to continue support for Dunlop if BTR bid succeeds

By Ian Griffiths

BTR has reached an agreement with Dunlop Holdings' principal bankers for continued financing of the group should it succeed with its £33 million bid for the ailing tyre company.

Last night, however, Dunlop issued a countering statement saying the banks had reconfirmed their support for the company's much-needed financial reconstruction and the possible revisions to the reconstruction proposals.

A spokesman for one of the banks said both statements were correct. It therefore appears that the banks are prepared to support Dunlop irrespective of the outcome of the takeover but will remain neutral during the battle.

BTR would not expand on the arrangements it had negotiated with the banks, but said: "Dunlop's shareholders and employees should be aware that these arrangements will introduce a greater amount of new cash to Dunlop than the reconstruction provides."

When BTR, the industrial holding company chaired by Sir Owen Green, first announced its bid for Dunlop, one of the



Sir Owen Green: challenged to provide details

conditions was that the banks would continue to provide loan facilities of £30 million and convert £100 million of their debts into BTR redeemable preference shares.

The bank made it clear at the time that these terms were unacceptable and since then there have been intense negotiations between them and BTR to find a compromise.

One of the bank's main concerns was the amount of preference shares they were obliged to take. Under the terms of Dunlop's proposed recon-

struction they would have converted only £70 million of their debt into a combination of ordinary and redeemable preference shares.

Dunlop, however, criticized BTR for not making plain the exact terms of the agreement. A statement from the board, chaired by Sir Michael Edwards, said: "The board deplores that BTR's announcement fails to disclose the terms it has reached with the bankers or how these compare with the terms set out in the conditions to the offer. This information is highly pertinent to Dunlop and its shareholders, and BTR should provide it without delay."

Tomorrow Dunlop shareholders are expected to turn out in force for the extraordinary meeting which was convened to consider the proposed financial reconstruction. Last week, Sir Michael said he intended to adjourn that meeting without discussing the plan which is now being amended.

However, it is understood he is considering using the meeting to give shareholders additional information about the revised reconstruction and also an

indication of the level of support so far generated.

Representatives of BTR, which holds a 28 per cent stake in Dunlop's preference share capital, will be attending and they may take the opportunity to press Sir Michael about Dunlop's trading prospects and the level of extraordinary write-offs which will be needed in the 1984 accounts and which will impair net asset value.

It was the BTR preference share stake—which would have effectively allowed the company to veto Dunlop's proposed reconstruction—which prompted Sir Michael to revise his plans in an attempt to bypass these blocking shares.

Meanwhile, the Dunlop management is still pressing ahead with its plans to revive Dunlop's fortunes. Sir Michael has been in the Midlands for the last two days visiting local production plants.

The main board has agreed business plans for the five biggest profit centres in Britain and the local management will now implement them. The main aim will be to maintain existing turnover, reduce costs and improve productivity.

Racal wins piracy case

Racal Electronics has won the latest round in its legal action against Rauff and Sorensen, a Danish company, for unlicensed manufacture of receivers, which pickup Racal's navigational system.

Rauff and Sorensen was ordered by the Commercial and Maritime Court sitting in Copenhagen to stop producing the receivers and to pay Racal compensation of 2 million kroner (£156,000) plus costs.

Racal has already won a similar action against Rauff and Sorensen in Holland and is awaiting the outcome of legal proceedings in Britain, Germany, Sweden and France.

Royal Bank of Scotland's £150 million purchase of Charterhouse Japhet from Charterhouse J Rothschild will not be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, the Department of Trade and Industry said yesterday.

Highest output

Industrial production in the ten nations of the European Community showed a slight seasonally-adjusted decline in November but the trend over recent months is still toward rising output, according to Eurostat, the community's statistical service.

Money rates rise

Money market rates rose again yesterday, removing any remaining hopes of an early cut in base rates. The three-month interbank rate closed 1/8 higher at 13 1/2-13 3/4. The narrowing of the gap between money market rates and base rates, currently 1 1/4 per cent, has provided support for the pound in recent days.

C & W sale

Cable and Wireless has agreed to sell four service and distribution companies in Britain and Europe to Bell Canada, in a deal provisionally estimated to be worth between £5 million and £10 million. The subsidiaries are Cable and Wireless UK Services, and three Eurotech businesses in Holland, France and Italy, specialise in terminal and minicomputer maintenance, as well as in the distribution and rental of computer, data and telecommunications equipment.

The routine Building Societies Association meeting, due to be held today, is not expected to make changes mortgage or investment rates. There were fears of a further rise when base rates jumped to 14 per cent last Monday, but cash inflows have remained stronger than expected.

More orders

Orders for West Germany's manufacturing industry rose a seasonally and price-adjusted 4 per cent in December from November.

Bankers Trust builds UK gilts team

By Philip Robinson

Bankers Trust, the eighth largest American bank, is building a team to compete as a market maker in the new system for trading British government securities expected to be introduced next week.

The latest recruit is Mr Robert Baxter, aged 27, at present a dealer in short gilts with Panmure Gordon, the stockbrokers. He will join the bank in about six weeks, bringing the team to at least three. The bank says it is still recruiting.

However, Bankers Trust denies that it is making a market in British gilts. It confirmed last night that it does intend to become a significant force in the new gilts market. Under Bank of England rules this will involve setting up a separate company for the purpose with a capitalization of perhaps £25 million.

Heading Bankers Trust gilts trading is Mr Anthony Peaker. With him is Mr Michael Birks, formerly with Montagu Loebel Stanley and Buckmaster & Moor.

Bankers Trust is reported to want and equity stake in a stockbroker prominent in the gilt market. It was tipped as a possible new bidder for W Greenwell & Co had the deal with Midland through Samuel Montagu fallen through. It has believed to have been in discussion with Sheppards & Chase.

Mr Peaker said last night: "I cannot comment on either of these. I cannot tell you how many people we want or have got. We just want to quietly get on with our own business."

Mr Ian Cameron, senior partner at Panmure said: "We are sorry to see Bob Baxter go, but it is a good move for him. We have no ambitions to be a gilts market maker, but want to remain with the gilts' agency business." Meanwhile R P Martin, the money brokers said yesterday that it has received another bid approach which may lead to an offer.

US acts to prevent crisis on farms

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The Reagan Administration, under intense pressure from farm groups, unveiled yesterday an emergency credit programme of undetermined size to forestall a wave of farm foreclosures and bank failures potentially as severe as the 1930s.

The new programme raised strong doubts over the Administration's ability to meet the deficit reduction goals outlined this week in the budget.

Mr David Stockman, the director of the Office of Management and Budget, said the Administration was forced to devise a short-term bail-out plan for financially distressed farmers in response to Congressional "blackmail".

Citing a "drumbeat of political demands", Mr Stockman said it would run into billions of dollars. Two days before unveiling the programme, the Administration asked Congress to agree to big cuts in farm support programmes totalling almost \$30 billion.

Oil rig cost jumps £20m and it is two years late

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

BP has taken delivery of its semi-submersible drilling rig, Sea Explorer, from the Scott Lithgow shipyard on the Clyde almost two years behind schedule and with the final cost at £80 million, which is £20 million above the original tender price.

Discussions on compensation for BP are now going on between BP and British Shipbuilders, which owned the shipyard during the period when the contract fell behind schedule.

The yard is now being operated by Trafalgar House with technical assistance from Howard Doria, the Anglo-French group which owns two existing rig-building yards in Scotland and is now planning to open a new yard in the South east of England.

The BP rig left the Clyde late yesterday and is now on its way to Invergardon in the Cromarty Firth where it will have its sophisticated drilling equipment loaded before starting work on block 26/7 close to the coast south east of Aberdeen.

Spurs in first-half surge

By Cliff Feltham

Tottenham Hotspur made a pre-tax profit of £821,000 during the first half of the year. This compares with a £459,000 loss previously.

The profit takes in a surplus of £626,000 on the transfer market. Mr Paul Bobroff, chairman, reported a £99,000 currency gain, as Tottenham asked to be paid in dollars when it sold Steve Archibald to Barcelona.

Turnover during the six months was up from £1.8 million to £2.3 million. Meanwhile, Tottenham is pressing on with plans to raise the income from non footballing ventures.

Hotels eye Hyde Park site

By Judith Huntley

A plum site at Hyde Park Corner, in London, the former St George's Hospital, now owned by the Grosvenor Estate, is attracting keen interest from American and international hotel chains wanting a flagship in London.

The booming hotel market and the strength of the dollar against the pound have given London hotels and developers a wary value and sent prices through the roof.

The Sultan of Brunei recently paid £43 million for the Dorchester hotel in Park Lane, close to the St George's site.

The Grosvenor Estate said that it has had more than 100 proposals to transform the former hospital building into an hotel, from all the leading names in the industry.

The Grosvenor Estate, which belongs to the family interest of the Duke of Westminster, reputedly the richest man in Britain, says it has a legal agreement with a tenant for the hospital building.

A little-known organization, the Location of Industry Bureau, is supposed to be taking the 100,000 sq ft of space there. Grosvenor Estate also has permission for 134,000 sq ft of refurbished and new offices behind the hospital.

The planning permission for the St George's site restricts development to institutional or public uses in the hospital itself and allows the office development behind.

Any hotel operator wanting to buy the site would have to jump to planning hurdles to obtain a change of consent.

Beecham buys UniBond

By Alison Eadie

Beecham, the worldwide pharmaceuticals and household products group, is buying UniBond, the USM-quoted manufacturer of adhesives and sealants, for £12.4 million in cash, excluding the exercise of options held by directors and employees of UniBond.

UniBond share came back from suspension at 15 1/2p to close up 6 1/2p at 218p, a record high. The placing price in January 1984 was 105p a share. Beecham shares gained 27p to close at 350p.

The terms are 45 Beecham shares for 71 UniBond shares or 25p in cash. Large shareholders in UniBond (including the three Bushby family directors), representing 60.2 per cent of the ordinary shares, have irrevocably undertaken to accept the offer.

The offer is conditional upon UniBond making pre-tax profits in 1984 of £350,000 against £688,000 in 1983, and achieving turnover of not less than £10.5 million against £8.6 million.

MacGregor heads unit trust launch

By Ronald Faux

The Scottish Development Agency is planning to launch a unit trust fund headed by Mr Ian MacGregor the National Coal Board chairman, to raise up to \$25 million (£22.5 million) for venture capital partnerships in American high-technology companies.

Scottish American Venture Enterprise is intended to strengthen links between Silicon Glen in Scotland with Silicon Valley in California and give significant strategic advantage to Scotland.

By investment in the brightest and best of the emerging American Companies Scotland hopes to build a valuable store of information on new trends in development and research and improve the prospects for attracting more high-technology investment.

Noble Grossart, the Edinburgh merchant bank, which is the agency's financial adviser on the project, has informed institutions chiefly pension funds and insurance groups with larger companies based in Scotland or holding Scottish interests.

Debt fears

The managing director of the International Monetary Fund, M Jacques de Larosiere, said yesterday in Stockholm that spreading protectionism by wealthy nations could threaten the hard-won progress of Third World nations and deepen the debt crisis for years to come.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS	MAIN PRICE CHANGES	CURRENCIES
FT Ind Ord ..893.3(+0.9)	Unibond Hlds ..218 +63	London:
FT-A All Share ..619.42(-1.75)	Applebyard Grp ..15 +2	£: \$1.1138 (+0.0023)
FT Govt Securities ..79.62(-0.01)	Breville Euro ..104 +11	DM: 3.5835 (-0.0010)
FT-SE 100 ..1,289.5(+0.4)	W. Canning ..190 +20	Sfr: 3.0435 (-0.0025)
Bargains: 23,713	Burnett & Hallam ..218 +21	FFr: 10.9480 (+0.0002)
DataStream USM ..105.20(-0.53)	Dobenham ..218 +21	Yen: 289.06 (+0.35)
New York	Micromechanics Int ..21 +2	Index: 71.5 (+0.1)
Dow Jones ..1,288.09(+2.67)	Alura ..174 +17	New York:
Tokyo	Town Centre Sacs ..47 +4	£: DM 3.2235
Nikkei Dow ..11,867.17(+43-74)	Viking Rap ..44 +8	\$/Index: 148.7 (+0.3)
Hong Kong	Owners Abroad ..234 +19	ECU: £0.620753
Hang Seng ..1,333.31(+19.16)	Dee Corporation ..207 +13	SDR: £0.870386
Amsterdam ..198.5(+0.3)	Sutcliffe Spelman ..32 +2	INTEREST RATES
Sydney: AO ..777.8(+5.8)	Gastemer "A" ..103 +6	London:
Frankfurt	ICC Oil Services ..18 +1	Bank Base: 14%
Commerzbank ..1,147.2(+11.8)		3-month Interbank: 13% - 13 1/4
Brussels:		3-month eligible bills: 13 1/4 - 13
General ..152.86(+5.37)		buying rate
Paris: CAC ..197.3(+1.3)		US:
		Prime Rate: 10.50%
		Federal Funds: 8 1/4%
		3-month Treasury Bills: 8.11 - 8.07%
		Long bond: 103 3/4 - 103 1/2% yield

GOLD	FALLS:
London fixing:	Acorn Computers ..27 -7
am \$309.45pm \$302.85	Resources Tech ..39 -5
close \$302.75-\$303.25 (£272-25)	CPJ Computers ..43 -5
	Metal Sciences ..9 -1
	AB Electronics ..449 -18
	London & Owers Fr ..31 -14
	James Halstead ..79 -6
	Siar Computer Grp ..45 -3

This advertisement is not a prospectus nor does it constitute an offer or invitation to subscribe for shares in Antique and Collectors Cars plc. Applications may be made only on the application form which is annexed to the prospectus.

Antique and Collectors Cars plc
 (Registered in England under the Companies Acts 1948 to 1983 with No. 1840889)

OFFER FOR SUBSCRIPTION by EARNSHAW, HAES & SONS
 Under the terms of the Business Expansion Scheme of 4,000,000 10p Ordinary Shares at 50p per Share

The Company will acquire, restore, promote and sell collectors cars in the price range £20,000—£200,000 from the Vintage period to the Modern Classics. (An example in the increase in value is the Bugatti 35B (shown above) valued at £11,000 in 1974 and £100,000 in 1984—appreciation of 909%).

The board of directors consists of:—
 Sir Montague Prichard CBE, MC (Chairman)—was previously chairman of Perkins Engines Group, vice-president of the Motor Manufacturers and Traders and president of the Motor Industry Research Assoc.
 Christopher Drake (Managing Director)—ran his own collectors cars dealing company and has extensive knowledge of the market.
 Sir Clive Bossom bt—ex-chairman of RAC and British Motor Sports Council, currently president of the British Automobile Racing Club.
 Fenton Higgins FCA (Financial Director)—founder partner of a West End firm of chartered accountants Higgins & Messias.
 Richard Crump—one of the foremost authorities on Italian sports and competition cars on which he has written seven books.

Copies of the prospectus can be obtained from Earnshaw, Haes & Sons, 17 Tokenhouse Yard London EC2 01-588 5699
 Issued by Earnshaw, Haes & Sons on behalf of the Company.

WALL STREET

Dow edges higher

Table of stock market movements including Dow Jones Industrial Average, S&P 500, and various sector indices.

Shares were mostly higher in heavy early trading yesterday. The Dow Jones Industrial average was up 1.87 points, at 1,287.10 with advancing issues outstripping declining ones by almost two to one.

Mr Arthur D Ammann vice president of Boettcher Co in Denver said: "The market seems to be having trouble in breaking through the 1,300 level of the Dow Jones Industrial Average. But this is a psychological problem not technical and once it gets through the going should be easier."

International Business Machines was up 5-8 at 135 7/8. General Electric up 1-8 at 63 5/8. General Motors down 3-8 at 80 5/8.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including Rubber, Coffee, Sugar, Wheat, Corn, Soybeans, and various metals.

Abbey Life sues for lost profits

Abbey Life Assurance was yesterday given leave to amend its High Court action against nine ex-employees and three companies within the Skandia insurance group to include a multi-million pound claim for loss of profits.

In its action, which is due to be heard in April 1985, Abbey alleges a conspiracy in January 1979 when key personnel left eight Abbey branches without warning and went over to Skandia, causing damage to Abbey's broker business.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Table of money market rates including Treasury bills, Euro-currency deposits, and gold prices.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

The foreign exchange market was quiet for most of the session. Initially an easier dollar reflected lower overseas markets and light profit-taking.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of investment trust performance including various funds and their returns.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures prices including three-month sterling, three-month Eurodollar, and US Treasury bonds.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of sterling spot and forward rates for various currencies and terms.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Table of other sterling rates including Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, and various international currencies.

AUTHORIZED UNIT TRUSTS

Table of authorized unit trusts including various investment funds and their details.

AUTHORIZED UNIT TRUSTS

Table of authorized unit trusts including various investment funds and their details.

COMPANY NEWS

STOCKLAKE HOLDINGS: Half-year to September 30. Interim dividend 3p (same). (Figs in £000). Turnover 11,877 (1,166). Profit before tax 1,556 (1,466). Profit after tax 773. Earnings per share 16.9p (16.5p). Results so far for the second half-year remain profitable, with no definite signs of a general improvement in trading conditions.

APPOINTMENTS

Mann Egerton & Co: Mr Brian P. Back has joined the firm. WS Atkins Group: Sir William Atkins has relinquished his position as chairman and is to become honorary president. Davies & Newman Holdings: Mr J. W. Davies has relinquished his position as deputy chairman and Mr David P. Herbert has been appointed in his place.

RECENT ISSUES

Table of recent issues including various bonds and securities.

Base Lending Rates advertisement listing various banks and their rates for different terms and currencies.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Stylo shoes prove too tight for Ritblat

By Judith Huntley

An archaic voting system has enabled the Ziff family to fight off the bid by British Land

The story behind the battle to wrest Stylo, the Leeds shoe retailer, from the tight grip of the Ziff family, which controls it, highlights the inequities of an antiquated voting structure that can hardly be said to work in the best interests of ordinary shareholders.

owned and controlled by Mr Ziff and his family.

Stylo has long been eyed by others keen to take on the company and exploit the potential of its valuable property assets. Stylo recently put a value of £22.66 million on its portfolio of 300 retail properties through Clive Lewis and Partners, the estate agents.

British Land is no stranger to the retail sector. Ten per cent of its £350 million portfolio is in shops and similar property, with Scotland a favoured area.

realizing its potential are therefore good, and Mr Ritblat made it clear at the outset of the tender offer that he was well acquainted with Stylo's properties.

Mr Ziff argues that he is in the process of buying more freeholds where he can, which must make the property portfolio even more attractive to the likes of British Land.

The attractions of the company's assets were enough to tempt Harris Queensway last year to make a £35.6 million cash offer for Stylo. Mr Ziff and his family fought that bid off through the voting structure of the company which gave management shareholders 43.5 per cent of the votes.

Institutional shareholders in Stylo became nervous about the prospect of Mr Ritblat's tender offer failing and decided to sell rather than risk the chance of not obtaining the 185p cash offer for their shares. So Town

Leeds, specifically the Merrion Centre, a shopping and office complex developed 20 years ago. The retail element of the scheme is in need of refurbishment and £500,000 is to be spent on it. Rent reviews should come up in the next couple of years.

But a 70,000 sq ft office block, Wade House, has been vacant since it was modernized in 1979. Other vacancies in the portfolio are estimated by Rowe & Fitman to account for £500,000 a year in lost rental income.

Until the archaic voting system at Stylo is changed, or there is a rift in the Ziff family, further attempts to unlock its property assets look likely to fail too. But the prospect of predators hovering nearby may be enough to prompt the management into more vigorous action to realize the potential of valuable assets that should be made to work harder for the benefit of shareholders.

Ritblat well acquainted with Stylo's properties

Centre Securities now owns the crucial stake in Stylo. The purchases passed the scrutiny of the Takeover Panel but outside shareholders in Town Centre Securities might like to question, whether there is a conflict of interest here.

Toronto bank set to be Triton Court's first tenant

Triton Court, the former Royal London House building refurbished by Royal London Mutual Insurance Society, is believed to have 20,000 sq ft under offer to the Toronto Dominion Bank and more space is likely to be signed up shortly.

Estates, will do next may be in for a long wait. He has now resigned from Churchbury and as he sits at the time of the Greycoat Estates takeover, he will cease to have any connection with the company he set up. It is clear however, that his new venture will still have property connections but it will be a very private affair.

restrictions set around property development and ownership by the Foreign Investment Review Board. Capco has £23 million invested in Australia, in debt and equity. Its policy is to use local management in addition to having its own staff employed in the country. It retains a 35 per cent stake in its Australian developments, in line with the law.

shape of the Mobil Pension Fund and Aetna Life. Still north of Sydney, Capco has pre-let 130,000 sq ft to American Express and is negotiating with a fund on the 65 per cent interest it has to sell.

from the survey is that 48 per cent of the 143.15 million sq ft on the market is over 10 years old. King & Co says "it is difficult to envisage a decline in this level of availability through take-up for occupation."

NATIONAL Girobank logo and text: National Girobank announces that with effect from close of business 6th February 1985... Deposit Accounts The rate of interest payable on deposit accounts will be 11% per annum

Lloyds Bank Access Alteration to interest rate Lloyds Bank announces that the monthly rate of interest charged to its Access cardholders will be increased from 1.75% to 2% per month (equivalent to an Annual Percentage Rate of 26.8%) with effect from 20th February 1985.

Ferranti shares slip as broker cuts profits forecast By Derek Pain A profits downgrading dimmed shares of Ferranti, the electronics group, yesterday. The shares fell 12p to 142p at one time as James Capel and Co., the stockbroker, pulled back its projections for this year...

TEMPUS Spurs score own goal on share performance Mr Paul Bobroff, chairman of Tottenham Hotspur, has no strong views about the dismal performance of the share price - 76p now against the launch of 100p. He says the market must make up its mind about the value of the company.

STOCK MARKET REPORT Ferranti shares slip as broker cuts profits forecast By Derek Pain Among foods, Dee Corporation gained 13p to 207p as a leading stockbroker took the view that the shares were cheap.

PRIME MIDTOWN MANHATTAN SITE FOR SALE The Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority, on behalf of itself and the City of New York, requests proposals for the sale and redevelopment of the New York Coliseum.

THIRD FLOOR REMAINING SECOND FLOOR REMAINING FIRST FLOOR REMAINING EXCELLENT AIR-CONDITIONED OFFICES TOTAL DEVONSHIRE HOUSE LAND SECURITIES PLC

RACING: BURROUGH HILL LAD SHORTENS TO 2-1 ON REPEAT OF CHELTENHAM TRIUMPH

Setbacks for Gold Cup contenders

By Michael Seely

Burrough Hill Lad looks certain to start the shortest-priced favourite for the Cheltenham Gold Cup since the legendary Arkle triumphed at 10-1 on in 1966. Last year's winner hardened to 2-1 on after both Combs Ditch and Forgive 'N Forget had been beaten at Ascot yesterday.

Combs Ditch turned in a satisfactory performance when only beaten 1 1/2 lengths by Rose Ravine in the Fernbank Hurdle, but was a distressed horse in the paddock afterwards. Forgive 'N Forget also drifted in the betting for the Blue Riband of steeplechasing after a last fence blunder had prevented the Greenwood Lad in the Whitbread Trial Chase.

Before the second flight from home in the Fernbank Hurdle Colin Brown was exuding confidence on Combs Ditch, who had been heavily backed from 5-2 to 13-8. However, after jumping none too cleanly, the favourite came under strong pressure. Running on gamely, Rose Ravine battled her way to a decisive win with Play Boy finishing third, half a length behind Combs Ditch.



Holding the trumps: Ten Of Spades leads Sailor's Dance over the last in the Dutchess Novices' Hurdle at Ascot yesterday (Photograph: Chris Cole)

David Elsworth's first reaction was one of satisfaction. "It's disappointing to be beaten. But the ground wasn't really soft enough for him". But the trainer's pleasure soon turned to consternation when Combs Ditch stopped dead at the far end of the paddock while being led back to the stable and refused to move. After being given an injection by the course veterinary surgeon, Combs Ditch was led back to the paddock for 15 minutes before being taken to his box.

In 1983, Combs Ditch collapsed after finishing sixth behind Bregawn and the rest of Michael Dickinson's famous first five home in the Gold Cup. "It looks as though the same sort of thing has happened to the horse," Elsworth said. "But of course it wasn't nearly as bad. We thought we were going to lose him then and he nearly did."

"He seems to lose all sense of coordination, just as though he's having difficulties in getting enough oxygen. First we're going to have a private vet taken in the stables. And when we get him home we'll have his heart and oxygen intake checked."

"Everything proves satisfactory," Combs Ditch will next attempt to repeat his 1983 win in the Jim Ford Challenge Cup at Wincanton. "We'll have to consider taking an oxygen bottle to the races in case he gets into trouble again," Elsworth said. Combs Ditch's price has eased from 4-1 to 7-1 for the Gold Cup.

Nothing should be allowed to detract from the merit of Rose Ravine's win. The mare showed the same qualities for bottomless stamina and courage as she had demonstrated when beating Buckbeak and Stan's Pride at Cheltenham recently. "She'll go for the Waterford Crystal Stayers' Hurdle at the Festival," Fulke Walwyn, her trainer, said.

Despite Forgive 'N Forget's defeat, Jimmy FitzGerald was far from dissatisfied with his performance. "It would have been a bit of a mistake," he said. "He's likely to go for the Sun Alliance Chase at Cheltenham". The Malton trainer said, "We've certainly got to take on Burrough Hill Lad, but first we'll try and repeat last year's win in the Timeform Chase at Haydock."

Mariners Dream to make mark in handicap company

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Following that highly commendable performance at Beas The Hurdler, just that, Ulan Retreat at Sandown last Saturday, Mariners Dream is rapped to win the Gillingham Handicap Hurdle (4.15) at Wincanton today in the hands of John O'Neill. At the previous meeting on the Somerset course, Mariners Dream, again ridden by the former champion jockey, finished in great style, a favourite a couple of days earlier by winning her first race in this country at 6-1.

A decent stayer on the flat in Ireland, Sheer Gold is just preferred. She will reach today's distance and is getting weight from all her principal rivals except Maganoy, who was runner-up to Cats Eyes at Fowlewell on Monday. The Whittlesey Handicap Chase should go to John Edwards's progressive eight-year-old Castle Warden, who beat Good As Ever over this course and distance on Boxing Day. As Castle Warden has only one flight in the meantime, and Good As Ever has won twice since, the form has a gilt-edged look about it.

Brimsdon Lady, now with Fulke Walwyn, makes her English debut in the Stroud Green Hurdle, at Newbury tomorrow. Kevin Mooney rides. Corbiere has been heavily supported for the Grand National with William Hill and is now 14-1 second favourite, from 20-1. Coral Delight could be a more rewarding bet to win the Hart Hill and Pitt Stud's Novices' Hurdle (2.15) following her good third to fourth at Cheltenham last month. The Truants Novices' Hurdle (3.45) could go to Rainbow Lady now that her trainer Martin Pipe, has his horses in such sparkling form. At Huntingdon, there promises to be an above-average race for the Sidney Banks Memorial Novices' Hurdle (2.30).

WINCANTON

GOING: good to soft

Table with columns: 1.45 GORTON DENHAM CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (E1,592; 3m 11(12) runners). List of horses and jockeys.

2.15 HART HILL & PITT STUDS NOVICE HURDLE (NAPS; E1,500; 20)

Table with columns: 2.15 HART HILL & PITT STUDS NOVICE HURDLE. List of horses and jockeys.

2.45 WINCANTON CHALLENGE CUP CHASE (E2,724; 2m 50(5) 11)

Table with columns: 2.45 WINCANTON CHALLENGE CUP CHASE. List of horses and jockeys.

Table with columns: 3.15 DICK WOODHOUSE HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs; E550; 2m 50(11) 11). List of horses and jockeys.

3.45 FOVANT NOVICE HURDLE (4-y-o; E924; 2m) (23)

Table with columns: 3.45 FOVANT NOVICE HURDLE. List of horses and jockeys.

4.0 MAJOR CHARLES TOWNSEND MEMORIAL HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs; E595; 2m 40(11) 11)

Table with columns: 4.0 MAJOR CHARLES TOWNSEND MEMORIAL HUNTER CHASE. List of horses and jockeys.

4.30 LANTON HANDICAP HURDLE (E1,198; 3m) (16)

Table with columns: 4.30 LANTON HANDICAP HURDLE. List of horses and jockeys.

4.55 GILLINGHAM HANDICAP HURDLE (E1,714; 2m) (20)

Table with columns: 4.55 GILLINGHAM HANDICAP HURDLE. List of horses and jockeys.

WATERFORD CRYSTAL CHAMPION HURDLE

Table with columns: WATERFORD CRYSTAL CHAMPION HURDLE. List of horses and jockeys.

Results from Ascot

Table with columns: 1.30 DUTCHESS NOVICE HURDLE (E3,208; 2m). Results of the race.

2.05 SPANLING NOVICE CHASE (E5,609; 2m)

Table with columns: 2.05 SPANLING NOVICE CHASE. Results of the race.

2.30 FERNBANK HURDLE (E4,485; 3m)

Table with columns: 2.30 FERNBANK HURDLE. Results of the race.

3.05 WHITBREAD TRIAL HANDICAP CHASE (E12,070; 3m)

Table with columns: 3.05 WHITBREAD TRIAL HANDICAP CHASE. Results of the race.

GREENWOOD LAD b by Meneak - Rathconon (M) (10-1) (10-30)

Table with columns: GREENWOOD LAD b by Meneak - Rathconon. Results of the race.

HUNTINGDON

Table with columns: GOING: good to soft. 1.30 GLATTON SELLING HURDLE (Div 1; E1,091; 2m 200yd) (14 runners). Results of the race.

2.0 GATTON SELLING HURDLE (Div 2; E1,090; 2m 200yd) (14)

Table with columns: 2.0 GATTON SELLING HURDLE. Results of the race.

2.30 WHITTLESEY HANDICAP CHASE (E1,678; 3m 100yd) (8)

Table with columns: 2.30 WHITTLESEY HANDICAP CHASE. Results of the race.

3.0 SIDNEY BANKS MEMORIAL NOVICE HURDLE (E5,212; 2m 40(11) 11)

Table with columns: 3.0 SIDNEY BANKS MEMORIAL NOVICE HURDLE. Results of the race.

3.30 BET WITH THE TOTE NOVICE CHASE (E2,898; 2m 40(11) 18)

Table with columns: 3.30 BET WITH THE TOTE NOVICE CHASE. Results of the race.

Huntingdon selections

1.30 Chalc Waldge, 2.0 Buckminster Boy, 2.30 Castle Warden, 3.0 Sheer Gold, 3.0 Leith Hill Flyer, 4.0 Gill O'Whiskey, 4.30 Alfie Dickins.

2.30 Castle Warden, 3.0 Sheer Gold.

4.0 MAJOR CHARLES TOWNSEND MEMORIAL HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs; E595; 2m 40(11) 11)

Table with columns: 4.0 MAJOR CHARLES TOWNSEND MEMORIAL HUNTER CHASE. Selections for the race.

4.30 LANTON HANDICAP HURDLE (E1,198; 3m) (16)

Table with columns: 4.30 LANTON HANDICAP HURDLE. Selections for the race.

4.55 GILLINGHAM HANDICAP HURDLE (E1,714; 2m) (20)

Table with columns: 4.55 GILLINGHAM HANDICAP HURDLE. Selections for the race.

Court of Appeal

Underlying criminal character of case

Day and Another v Grant Regina v Manchester Crown Court, Ex parte Williams

Law Report February 7 1985

Objective test for removing arbitrator

Tracom SA v Gibbs Nathaniel (Canada) Ltd and Another Before Mr Justice Staughton [Judgment delivered January 23]

Queen's Bench Division

Miramac kicks off for Lee

Francis Lee, the former England footballer, has kicked off for Miramir, a new football club, on Saturday.

Big-race entries for Cheltenham

Miramac kicks off for Lee

Francis Lee, the former England footballer, has kicked off for Miramir, a new football club, on Saturday.

Public Appointments

British Council of Churches Director, Christian Aid

Applications are invited for this important post. The appointment is to be made in May, 1985, with the Director taking office as soon as is practicable.

The person appointed to lead Christian Aid's work as Director will need good managerial and administrative skills, a sensitive understanding of theology and development, and proved ability to communicate.

Applicants who may be men or women, ordained or lay, must belong to one of the Churches in membership with the BCC of which the Director will be an Assistant General Secretary.

Full information from the Administrative Secretary, The British Council of Churches, 2 Eaton Gate, London SW1W 9BL.

Those interested, for themselves or for others, should write to him as soon as possible. The closing date for applications will be March 11th, 1985.

THE BRITISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES DIRECTOR, CHRISTIAN AID

Applications are invited for this important post. The appointment is to be made in May 1985, with the Director taking office as soon as is practicable.

The person appointed to lead Christian Aid's work as Director will need good managerial and administrative skills, a sensitive understanding of theology and development, and proven ability to communicate.

Applicants, who may be men or women, ordained or lay, must belong to one of the Churches in membership with the BCC of which the Director will be an Assistant General Secretary.

Full information is available from the Administrative Secretary, the British Council of Churches, 2 Eaton Gate, London SW1W 9BL. Those interested, for themselves or for others, should write to him as soon as possible. The closing date for applications will be March 11, 1985.

NATIONAL CONSUMER COUNCIL

The National Consumer Council is funded by the Department of Trade and Industry, to watch over consumers' interests and to speak up for the consumer to government, nationalised industries, independent industry and commerce, public or private services.

Two vacancies have arisen at the London-based offices of this national watchdog organisation, for people with administrative skills; able to write fluently; used to working efficiently under pressure without supervision and able to communicate easily with all sorts of people.

The first post is a DEVELOPMENT OFFICER working to the Development Division who will mainly be responsible for organising the three day residential Consumer Congress. This is an annual forum for hundreds of delegates from scores of organisations and the Development Officer will service the elected Congress Committee. The Development Officer will be actively involved in other development and liaison work with consumer representatives. Experience in organising meetings and conferences would be an advantage.

The second post is an EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT working to the senior group of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Director and Deputy Director. Responsibilities will include background research and drafting of reports and speeches, arranging meetings, handling correspondence, and liaison with a wide variety of organisations and individuals from industry, government and the consumer world in general. This person will also act as International Secretary for the NCC making contact with consumer organisations worldwide and keeping NCC informed of international developments.

Terms and conditions of employment including pension are similar to those of the civil service and the salary scale is Executive Officer: £7,317 to £9,792 including London Weighting.

People interested should telephone:

SHARON HANCOCK
for further information and application form on
01-222 9501.
Completed forms must be returned to the NCC,
18 Queen Anne's Gate,
London SW1
by Friday, 22nd February 1985.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT FURTHER EDUCATION DIVISION

(i) MARKETING DIRECTOR

Salary Indicator £16K

(ii) C.E.L.P. PROJECT DIRECTOR

Salary Indicator £14K

The Further Education Division of the City of Birmingham Education Department is in the forefront of the development of education and training policies and practices to meet the challenge of the 1990's.

The Department now seeks to appoint two key post-holders who will promote the training opportunities provided by the Further Education Division and identify new client needs.

(i) The MARKETING DIRECTOR will be responsible for the overall development and co-ordination of marketing activities, including market research, training needs identification, consultancy, delivery systems, programme design and publicity - on behalf of the Birmingham FE System.

To meet this challenging position, applicants are likely to have an industrial and/or commercial background in marketing, plus experience of education and training. They will demonstrate an established record of achievements in their field.

(ii) Responsible to the Marketing Director, the College Employer Link PROJECT DIRECTOR will assist in the development of the Further Education System's response to meet current needs in industry and commerce.

Applicants for this post should have substantial experience in either Further Education or in industrial or commercial training. They will demonstrate the potential to forge effective links between Colleges and industry/commerce.

The Marketing Director post will be for a two year period, initially. The CELP Project Director will be temporary to 31st December 1985.

For further details and an application form contact:

The FE Division, Education Department,
Room 101, Margaret Street, Birmingham B3 3BU.
Telephone: 021-235 2540.

For an informal discussion about these posts telephone 021-235 2585.

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**BIRMINGHAM
CITY COUNCIL**

General Appointments

AMERICAN EMBASSY REQUIRES AN ESTATES ASSISTANT

To handle the Embassy's leasing requirements for all its housing and office properties. This includes negotiating leases, renewals, extensions and terminations, drafting legal documents, arranging inventory checks, calculating rent and service charges etc.

Applicants must have a minimum of 3 years leasing or related experience and possess a detailed knowledge of English contract law, procedures and practices, excellent written and spoken English language skills are required, and good negotiating techniques are essential.

Salary: approx £9,500 pa
Hours: 9am-6pm (Mon-Fri)

Apply in writing, giving full details of qualifications and work experience to:-

Personnel Office
American Embassy
24 Grosvenor Square
London W1A 1AE

Assistant Shows Director

The Royal Horticultural Society, with a membership of over 80,000, has two exhibition Halls at its headquarters in Westminster where fifteen flower shows are staged annually. In addition many trade and public exhibitions are held within the Halls. The Society is also responsible for the organisation of the Chelsea Flower Show held in the grounds of the Royal Hospital.

The Assistant Shows Director's responsibilities include Show and general administration concerned with the Society's various activities, the production of specifications upon which contractors would tender and contract negotiation.

The applicant should be between 30 and 40 years of age with academic or technical qualifications and experience to management level. Horticultural background could be advantageous but not essential. Current driving licence. Prepared to work some irregular hours.

Remuneration: A salary according to qualifications and experience is offered. Pension and private health scheme benefits. Good career prospects. Write or telephone for an application form to:
The Secretary (Dept ASD), The Royal Horticultural Society
PO Box 313, Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PE.

Telephone: 01-834 4833

NATIONAL CONSUMER COUNCIL Management Policy Development

The National Consumer Council is established and funded by government to represent the interests of consumers. The Policy Division is a small team whose function is to ensure that the Council has a solid base of research, information and advice on which to base policy. The Head of the Policy Division manages the work of this team and is expected to make a substantial personal contribution to the development of policy on consumer issues. The Council defines the role of consumer widely and is concerned with the provision of goods and services both in the public and private sector. Current policy issues range from liberalisation of the legislation governing shop hours to reforming the social security system. The Head of the Policy Division is a member of NCC's management team.

The successful applicant must have the management skills required to lead and direct the work of a small team of skilled research workers and to commission external research, as well as the ability to develop policy recommendations on the basis of research and analysis from the consumers' point of view. Council frequently deals with economic and legal issues and the Head of the Policy Division should be at ease in dealing with such issues. A knowledge of consumer affairs would be a clear advantage.

Terms and conditions of employment including pension are similar to those of the civil service and the salary scale is equivalent to Principal £14,195-£18,789 including London Weighting.

Those interested should telephone Valerie Moom, Head of Administration, on 01-222 9501 for further information. Completed application forms must be returned to the NCC, 18 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1, by Friday 1st March 1985.

TOUR EXECUTIVE

Fast growing French international tour operator now starting UK operation in Central London - requires commercial executive, 5 years' experience in tour management and first class references essential. Successful applicant will fulfil demanding operational role and possess flair for administration. Please telephone:
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ASAP to arrange an interview.

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ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Applications are invited from experienced people with knowledge of social work, criminal justice, or related fields, for the post of Assistant Director to the National Association of Victim Support Schemes. The post will suit applicants with energy, adaptability and senior management potential. A high level of responsibility and inter-agency liaison is involved. Salary in the region of £12,000 - £15,000 according to experience and qualifications.

Application forms and further details from
NAVSS, 34 Electric Lane, Brixton, London SW9 8JT.

Director of Social Services

£25,839 to £46,415 - £28,419
The present Director, Jim Bush, is to retire shortly through ill health. The Council seek a successor able to maintain and develop an effective and responsive service.

Candidates should have sound professional qualifications coupled with wide knowledge and experience in Social Services matters at senior level. Commitment to an innovative approach and the effective use of resources is necessary.

The new Director will need to demonstrate qualities of leadership and interpersonal skills of high order. Managerial and organisational skills must be proven as they are an essential pre-requisite to appointment.

An application form and full details are available from The County Personnel Officer, County Offices, Lincoln LN1 1YL Telephone (0522) 24482.
To be returned by 22 February 1985.

**Lincolnshire
County Council**

I.V.S. VACANCIES IN THIRD WORLD DEVELOPMENT

IBOTOMANA
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Information Officer.

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SWAZILAND
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Supervisor, Psychiatric Charge
Nurse, Children's Archivist,
Occupational Physio Therapist,
Counselling Instructors.

MOCIMBANE
Minimum 2 years' post
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Counsellors, Craftsmen, etc. with
formal teaching experience.
Building Supervisors,
Economic Planners, Architects,
Accountants, Adult Educators,
Nurses, Teachers, etc.

Other posts:
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Laboratory Technicians,
Agricultural Extension Officers,
Teachers, etc. with post-graduate
experience in Agricultural
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Geography and the English
School in Botswana.

Two-year contract including
medical fitness allowance and
travel. Budget no funding
available for dependent children in
the field.

Write for details, including a
comprehensive list of posts and
conditions, to:
I.V.S. Recruitment, 151
Regent Road, Luton, LU1 3PL.

NON-SECRETARIAL APPOINTMENTS

YOUNG ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT TO £8,000

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01-499 8070 West End
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01-278 9161/5**

POLYTECHNIC OF THE SOUTH BANK Department of Chemical Engineering

A part of the London Centre for Biotechnology SENIOR LECTURER/LECTURER II

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Includes of London Allowance.

Further details and application forms available by telephoning on 01 828 8983 ext. 2255 or writing to Staffing Office at Polytechnic of the South Bank, Borough Road, London, SE1 0AA.
Closing date: 28th February 1985.
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For 3-5 year programme on West European International Cooperation, to start in May/June. Good knowledge of European languages and of European Community. Details from: Personnel, 10 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4LE. Tel: 01-930 2233. Closing date 1st March 1985.

LEGAL NOTICES Continued from page 34

IN THE MATTER OF
DOBBS BROTHERS LIMITED
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE
COMPANIES ACT 1948

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the
above-named company, which is being
wound up, as provided, on or before
the 24th day of February, 1985, and
will be dissolved on the 24th day of
February, 1985, and that the
particulars of their debts or
claims, and the names and addresses
of their creditors, are, generally, as
set out in the Schedule to the
Statement of Affairs of the said
company, and that if any creditor
of the said company, or if any person
claiming to be a creditor of the said
company, has not in writing notified
the Liquidator of his name and
address, and of the nature of his
claim, and if he is not included in
the said Schedule, he shall be
excluded from the benefit of any
distribution made before the 24th
day of January, 1985.
Dated this 24th day of January,
1985.
PATRICK WALTER JOHN
HARRISON, F.C.A.
Liquidator

18 FILLIS HOLIDAYS LIMITED (in
liquidation) and THE
COMPANIES ACT 1948. NOTICE IS
HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors
of the above-named company are
required to send their names and
addresses to the Liquidator, David
Julian Bucher, FCA, at the
Bucher FCA, Arthur Avenue, London,
W2 1BB, by the 24th day of
January, 1985.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the
above-named company, which is being
wound up, as provided, on or before
the 24th day of February, 1985, and
will be dissolved on the 24th day of
February, 1985, and that the
particulars of their debts or
claims, and the names and addresses
of their creditors, are, generally, as
set out in the Schedule to the
Statement of Affairs of the said
company, and that if any creditor
of the said company, or if any person
claiming to be a creditor of the said
company, has not in writing notified
the Liquidator of his name and
address, and of the nature of his
claim, and if he is not included in
the said Schedule, he shall be
excluded from the benefit of any
distribution made before the 24th
day of January, 1985.
Dated this 24th day of January,
1985.
DAVID JULIAN BUCHER, FCA
Liquidator

RE PRINCIPLE ELECTRONICS LTD.
(in Voluntary Liquidation)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the
above-named company, which is being
wound up, as provided, on or before
the 24th day of February, 1985, and
will be dissolved on the 24th day of
February, 1985, and that the
particulars of their debts or
claims, and the names and addresses
of their creditors, are, generally, as
set out in the Schedule to the
Statement of Affairs of the said
company, and that if any creditor
of the said company, or if any person
claiming to be a creditor of the said
company, has not in writing notified
the Liquidator of his name and
address, and of the nature of his
claim, and if he is not included in
the said Schedule, he shall be
excluded from the benefit of any
distribution made before the 24th
day of January, 1985.
Dated this 25th day of January,
1985.
IAN PETER PHILLIPS, F.C.A.
PETER RICHARDS, F.C.A.
Joint Liquidators

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The Times or
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please telephone
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Bowater Liquid Packaging Ltd., Princes Way,
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Good working knowledge of French essential.
Salary commensurate with experience.
Please send CV to Mrs M. Harvey, IFPI Secretariat, 54 Regent
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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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General Appointments

Business Systems Consultant Up to £25,000+ car

The growth of the Allied Hambro Group of companies over the last decade has been nothing short of phenomenal. Our creative approach to product design, top quality service and business development has resulted in our ever widening interests in the assurance, banking services and investment sectors.

Central to the success is a unique Management Services Division, which plays a key role in the development and maintenance of our various business systems. It employs two types of Consultant: those involved with the computer systems, those involved with our business systems. Our current vacancy is for a Business Systems Consultant, which would be of interest to people with a background in either discipline.

The ideal candidate will be a graduate, motivated, possess strong social skills and be capable of working either independently or as part of a team.

- Your experience to date should have given you:
- excellent fact-finding and analytical skills
 - the ability to present business proposals to management both orally and in writing
 - formal training in management services techniques
 - practical experience of providing effective solutions within a computer environment
 - general management experience

It is probable that you will be currently working on business efficiency projects and you will enjoy hard work and innovation. In particular you will be a person who ensures that your proposals are implemented.

We can offer you a varied and highly professional working environment along with an excellent benefits package which includes a basic salary of up to £25,000 plus car, non-contributory pension scheme and generous relocation package.

An advertisement can't say everything about us, so send for our recruitment booklet and an application form now.

Write to Christine Clarke at Hambro Life Assurance plc, Allied Hambro Centre, Swindon SN1 1EL or phone her on (0793) 27812 (24 hour answering machine).

Share in our success

ALLIED HAMBRO
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

MARKETING DIRECTOR Required

An IBM software house with full agency status is seeking to appoint a Marketing Director to take control of the marketing of specialist software packages into specific vertical markets. A proven track record in the software or allied industry is vital. Renumeration package to suit right applicant reply to Box No 0565 R, The Times

A direct line to the executive shortlist.

InterExec is the organisation specialising in the confidential promotion of Senior Executives.

InterExec clients do not need to find vacancies or apply for appointments.

InterExec's qualified specialist staff, and access to over 100 unadvertised vacancies per week, enable new appointments at senior levels to be achieved rapidly, effectively and confidentially.

For a mutually exploratory meeting telephone:

London ☎ 01-930 5041/8
19 Charing Cross Road, WC2.

Birmingham ☎ 021-632 5648
The Rotunda, New Street.

Bristol ☎ 0272 277315
30 Baldwin Street.

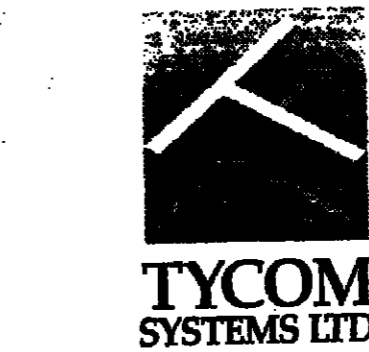
Edinburgh ☎ 031-226 5680
47a George Street.

Leeds ☎ 0532 450243
12 St. Pauls Street.

Manchester ☎ 061-236 8409
Faulkner House, Faulkner Street.

InterExec

The one who stands out.



SOFTWARE ENGINEERS AND PROGRAMMERS c. £15,000

Tycom systems is a small and expanding systems house with a wide customer base spread throughout the UK. We are looking for graduates with a sound technical background who have experience of one or more of the following:-

- 8086 Assembler
- 'C, preferably under XENIX
- IBM-PC developments

The successful candidates will be working on advanced micro based systems one of which is a nationwide communications network for Trusthouse Forte.

Please write enclosing your c.v. or telephone:-

Mike Gadbury,
Tycom Systems Ltd,
28 The Butts,
Brentford, Middlesex TW8 8BL.
Tel: 01-847 2641

YOUNG MARRIED COUPLE
Required to take charge of a pair of Hotel Narrow Boats on the English Canals, April to October. Interest in good food, people and canals essential.
Island Waterway Holiday Cruises Ltd, Preston Brook, Runcorn, Cheshire WAT 3AL.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND
Senior Accountancy Assistant

A qualified accountant, is required to supervise the daily operation of a busy Accounts office (12-staff) and become involved in a wide range of activities related to the financial management of this College, which is an independent professional institution engaged in teaching and research and a registered charity.
Salary on academic-related scale, the maximum of which is £13,383pa fully inclusive, 5 weeks' holiday.
Further particulars and application form available from:
Personal Officer,
Royal College of Surgeons of England,
35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields
LONDON WC2A 3PN
(Tel 01-405 3474)
quoting reference 5/85

FALCON INTERNATIONAL TOURS
An assistant is required to help in the day to day running of the Tour Accounts Dept.
Duties include reconciliation of bank, bank and supplier accounts and the verification of supplier invoices from throughout Europe. Some costing experience would be an advantage.
First class opportunity in a forward thinking American tour operator for a smart, intelligent and ambitious individual.
Salary negotiable according to age and experience.
Apply with full C.V. to:
Steven Jack,
Management Accountant,
Falcon International Tours (UK) Ltd,
Falcon Building,
230-232 Great Portland Street,
London W1W 0SL.

MANAGERS - ACTIVITY CENTRES UK & FRANCE
P.O. the holders in advance holidays for 1985 in the UK and France for the month of March 1985 for centres in the South of France and the 'Wye Valley' Herefordshire.
The job involves the management of 25 to 40 staff and the organisation and supervision of all aspects of the residential centre, which cater for between 100/150 guests.
Usual experience will include working with youngsters, contact with teachers and a knowledge of outdoor activities, primarily Canoeing or Rafting. Salary dependent on experience. Must be aged 25/26.
Further details and application form from: Mr. Helen, Personnel Manager, P.O. Young Associates Ltd, 95 St. John Street, Northwich, Warrington, Cheshire, WA11 7AT. Telephone 0928 64211

FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICITY
In our field we are becoming one of the leading companies in the UK and as part of our growth programme a sales person is required to join our team.
Ideally a graduate, at least 2 languages. Good prospects for the right person.
Write in the first instance with full C.V. to 'Dotted' Moulding, P.O. Box 405, Bilbain Road, London W8.

MARKETING RESEARCH MANAGER (FINANCIAL SECTOR)

CIRCA 15 1/2 SOUTH COAST
The Frizzell Group is one of the country's largest insurance broking and finance groups with offices throughout the UK and growing international interests. Its development over more than half a century has been founded on a close identification with consumer demand and the provision of a quality client service. Increased consumer awareness and the opportunities brought about by technological advances in communications offers an exciting future for the industry.
We now wish to appoint a manager who can combine vision with the disciplines of market research to provide an effective input to the formulation of the Group's product development and marketing strategy. The market research unit, which is based at Poole, will concentrate on the research and development of markets, products and services for the financial services sector. In addition it will maintain up to date information on competitors and marketing methods.
Applicants for the post should have a degree in a numerical science, be aged 28 - 35 and have at least 3 years' marketing research experience, ideally in the financial services sector. Good practical statistics expertise is a requirement and additional knowledge of information systems and sales management would be advantageous. Well developed written and oral communication skills are essential.
The Company offers excellent terms of employment, including comprehensive relocation assistance, free private medical cover, health insurance and preferential pension and retirement arrangements.

FRIZZELL

Please write in the first instance enclosing a comprehensive CV to: S M Woolridge, Personnel Manager, Norman Frizzell Motor & General, Frizzell House, County Gates, POOLE, BH15 6BH.

MASSACHUSETTS U.S.A. Systems Engineers Radar Systems \$35-\$85K

Our Client, an international high technology Fortune 100 company, has EXCLUSIVELY retained us to find at least TEN high calibre Radar Systems Engineers to work in their Radar Systems Laboratory in Massachusetts, U.S.A. It is imperative that all applicants have a Degree, preferably in Electronics, Computing or Mathematics, and have the following qualities and experience:
● Strong Analytical Skills ● Ability to translate overall system requirements into Hardware and Software ● Ability to perform Mathematical Modelling Studies.
Initial interviews will be held in the UK in February with a view to shortlisting applicants to meet our Clients in the UK in March. Your first step across the Atlantic is a small one - to your telephone.
Please telephone our Recruitment Managers, David Keenan or Joan Lovejoy, on 0442 40761, or write to us, enclosing C.V. at CSS Technical Recruitment, FREEPOST, Hamilton House, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 1BR.

CSS Technical Recruitment
A Division of Computer Search and Selection Limited

DEAL WITH PEOPLE
Central London 23-28 £28,500
If you're working with people and believe, as we do, that finding them jobs is an important and professional job, then we can offer you a long term career in the UK's leading specialist employment agency group.
Total individual responsibility for your own professional background in a rigorous entrepreneurial job totally stress free environment.
You will most likely be a graduate, ideally with an Accountancy background and possess the qualities of initiative, energy and dedication. We can offer full training, high earning potential and planned career prospects.
Please contact: 01-628 8004, Accountancy Personnel, 1 Glen House, Long Walk, Middx.

WANTED
NORTH SEA OFF-SHORE PLATFORMS MARKET
Spanish firm, leader in heavy-steel works needs Sales Agent for steel components of Off-Shore Platforms destined to the North Sea Fields under commission basis agreement.
All applicants should address to:
Talleres San Miguel, S.A.
P.O. Box 405, Bilbao/Spain

TRAINEE BROKERS
Unusual opportunity for 3 trainee brokers within major UK brokerage - for full story ring
Carl Emsom
on 01-408 1034

AC CONSULTANTS Quality on 4 hrs search. 0252 641124
TRAINEE NEGOTIATOR Outstanding opportunity for a young person to join in residential sales with one of Central London's most successful estate agents. Preferred age 20-24 years. 01-543 8921. Foron Putaria.
SELGEMANIA Estate Agency have a vacancy for a negotiator with initiative and personality. Willing to work on a commission basis. Reply to: Box No. 1478 T The Times.

EXPORT and Rights Administrator for the UK. Excellent opportunity to establish UK base leading to manufacturing for U.S. company offering wide range high performance fibres, moisture wicking fabrics, sportswear, accessories & private courier services. Excellent benefits, career progression, training and development opportunities and overseas experience. Excellent salary and benefits. Excellent ability to write and negotiate. Send resume to: Box 00777 The Times.
LOOKING AROUND? A good CV is your essential marketing device for that better job. Free advice from Personal Consultants Vite Ltd, Dept. T, 272/278 Pentonville Road, London N1. Tel 01-278 2555.

RELOCATION SEPARATION Sales Manager. Excellent opportunity to establish UK base leading to manufacturing for U.S. company offering wide range high performance fibres, moisture wicking fabrics, sportswear, accessories & private courier services. Excellent benefits, career progression, training and development opportunities and overseas experience. Excellent salary and benefits. Excellent ability to write and negotiate. Send resume to: Box 00777 The Times.
TELEVISION portable and writing assistant required for central London indoor club. Must be good tennis player. Tel: 25,503. Tel: 01-205 1265.

The British Computer Society

CONFERENCE MANAGER

The person appointed will take full responsibility for the day-to-day administration of events which range from technical and managerial seminars to major international congresses, including exhibitions.
The conference Manager will supervise the work of the department's conference assistants and additional staff recruited for particular events.
Previous conference organising experience is necessary and the ability to understand information technology topics desirable. The job requires an energetic person who enjoys constantly changing tasks and who can work effectively to deadlines.
The conference department is based in Central London. The commencing salary will be £10,000 + depending on qualifications and experience.
Further details and application form from:-
Mrs IF MacGregor
Personnel Officer
The British Computer Society
13 Mansfield Street
London W1M 0SP

General Appointments

Newbury Data Recording Ltd is an important part of the DRI Group - Europe's largest independent computer peripherals manufacturer. Our growth rate to date is impressive - in the last three years turnover has nearly trebled to well over £70m. The Group's set for even greater development and intends to go public this year. It is against this background that we are seeking to appoint the following:

PLANNING AND BUDGETS ACCOUNTANT

£ Negotiable

We are seeking a qualified Accountant to develop a co-ordinated planning process and prepare detailed budgets and forecasts. Candidates will need to demonstrate solid experience in corporate planning within a marketing/manufacturing environment, backed by well developed analytical skills. Experience of the use of microcomputers in financial modelling is essential. The salary will reflect the importance of this position and it is thought that candidates currently earning less than £12,500 will not have the depth of experience required for the post.

EQUIPMENT SALES EXECUTIVES

OTE £25K + CAR

We are seeking two highly motivated Sales Executives to sell our VDU, Printer and communications equipment to end users. Candidates must be able to demonstrate a proven sales track record in a high-tech environment.

VDU ANALOGUE DESIGN

c. £15K

To join a team pioneering the development of VDUs and intelligent terminals. Candidates must demonstrate strong innovative flair and solid experience in the design of VDUs or TV drive circuits and PSU's.

PRODUCT SUPPORT ENGINEER

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT to £15K + CAR

To provide technical support in pre- and post-sales situations. Problem solving together with alpha and beta testing of new products require a minimum of 2 years experience of IBM Assembler or Z80 programming. Knowledge of BSC/SNA communications protocols would be an advantage.

PROJECT LEADER

c. £15K

To join our team developing low cost communications products and VDUs using Unix and C. We are seeking a Project Leader to assume full responsibility for resource management and technical leadership from project definition to volume production. Applicants should have design experience with one or more of IBM/CL/225 communications systems and at least 4 years post-graduate experience.

For all positions we offer highly competitive salaries, related to experience and competence, an environment receptive to new ideas and the opportunity for personal growth and management development. In addition there are all the usual large company benefits and relocation assistance where appropriate.

For more information please contact Ian Muir or Jean Atkinson, Personnel Department, Newbury Data Recording Ltd., Hawthorne Road, Staines, Middlesex. Tel: Staines (0784) 51388.

Newbury Data
A member of the DRI Group.

Royal Insurance (UK) Ltd

STATISTICIAN

Royal Insurance (UK) Ltd. Management Services require a numerate graduate to work in their Liverpool Head Office. The successful candidate will join a team of Statisticians whose prime function is to assist in interpreting information required for the management of the Company, as well as having the opportunity to be involved in major statistical development work to enhance management information.

A good Honours degree and/or several years relevant working experience are essential for this key post with one of UK's major Insurance Companies. Salary will be in the range £8,250-£10,000, depending on qualifications and experience.

Applications, including all details, should be made in writing, to The Staffing & Administration Manager, Management Services, Royal Insurance (UK) Ltd., P.O. Box 144, New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3EN.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

This appointment will form part of an expansion of our Client Sales Team, to enable us to work more closely with the Marketing and Advertising Departments of our major customers. The role will involve selling at a high level to advertisers, identifying advertising and business opportunities, but also includes Key Account responsibility helping existing advertisers to make more effective use of the medium.

Suitable candidates are likely to be aged between 25-35, with experience in both advertising and marketing. Sales experience would be an advantage though not essential. Evidence of successful drive and determination is important.

The position will be based in London. The salary will be negotiable, based on experience and ability: a car will be provided.

If you match our requirements, please send a C.V. to:

Richard Emery, Director of Sales,
Central Independent Television plc
35-38 Portman Square, London W1A 2HZ.

An equal opportunities employer.
CENTRAL

SALES OFFICE ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

Expanding Cigar Import and Distribution Company, sole Importers of King Edward Cigars, requires a capable sales office administration manager. Candidates aged 28-42 must have professional management training and commercial flair, be accustomed to dealing with customers and skilful with figures and have some accounting experience. Excellent organising ability is vital.

The package comprise a salary in excess of £10,000 pa depending on experience and ability. BUPA membership and a company car will be provided. Also there are good prospects for advancement.

To apply please write enclosing a detailed CV to:
Mr G H Caro Managing Director
Loretta Cigars (London) Ltd
Loretta House, 10717 Finchley Road
London NW11 0QH.

SOFTWARE ENGINEERS

EUROPE

Our client company is a leading Systems House specialising in High Technology in Europe today. Based on the Continent, our Client has achieved considerable growth and success in developing and implementing Systems in the following sectors: SCADA, communications, energy, defence, industrial and finance/banking. The company is a relatively small operating company (circa 150K) offering significant career growth combining the following factors: a) a wide variety of software/technical projects; b) project and manpower responsibilities and active involvement in client liaison/sales support. The company is currently seeking to recruit a number of extra staff over the coming months to work on advanced systems including SCADA and Datacomms. Experience in one or more of the following areas is desirable:

- Process Control
- SCADA
- Protocols
- Point of Sale Systems
- Networks
- PDP11/VAX
- Air Traffic Control
- IBM Series 1
- Data Communications
- Banking
- Micro's Tandem
- Petrochemical Industry
- Hardware Experience

For further written information please telephone or write (preferably including a c.v.) to Datamatics. Initial interviews will take place in London with final interviews in Europe to follow.

DATAMATICS RECRUITMENT SERVICES

5 Brighton Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 5LX
Telephone 01-399 9183 Telex 291561

Senior Wireline Log-Analyst

CETIS a scientific data-processing firm, subsidiary of an American group in the petroleum field, seeks a proven Log-Analyst, with a scientific background, having a few years experience.

Your main mission will be to sell our wireline log interpretation software. After an important training in our programs, you will conduct interpretation tests of Log measurements for our clients throughout Europe as well as the rest of the world. You will also contribute to our Product Marketing and Development.

You must be fluent in French and English, and have strong commercial capacities. Your job will be located in Paris.

Please send your CV under ref. 652 LA to:

Claude Mayer - CETIS - 1 av. Pierre Grenier - 92100 Boulogne - France

D.P. Consultants - £10,000-£16,000

Banking Systems/Expert Systems

Helix Technology Group, well established and privately owned with a £2m. turnover in financial sector consultancy and systems development, is now poised for expansion. The Group has career opportunities for 2-3 exceptionally able individuals to join our team of gifted professionals.

We require:

- * A good degree.
- * First-class experience in data processing.
- * A high degree of commitment.
- * The ability to absorb and adopt new techniques.

We offer:

- * Unrivalled work experience on state-of-the-art banking applications and expert systems applications with our first class clients in the City and other financial capitals.
- * Extensive travel opportunities.
- * Rapid career advancement and salary progression.

Please apply with full C.V. to:

The Managing Director,
Helix Software Consultants Limited/
Helix Expert Systems Limited
11, Ludgate Circus,
London, EC4M 7LQ.

ACCOUNTANCY VACANCY

Accounting Assistant with some practical experience of mini computer installations. Required to help provide manual and computerised accounts and management information in small friendly company with retail and wholesale outlets in London.

Probable age group 25-35
Remuneration up to £7,750 pa
Possible review in 6 months
4 weeks paid holiday

Write in own hand with CV Ref MCL King & Co., 12 Pitts Road, Kingston-upon-Thames KT11 1SD.

A Great Opportunity

For a bright graduate to become part of our London based sales team. We will train you, give you a company car and negotiate an attractive salary with you. Opportunities also exist in the North of England and Scotland for sales people working from home. Please write with CV to: Mrs Baron

Box 0564 R The Times

PORTS of BOND ST.

require enthusiastic and energetic sales people to join their Bond Street team selling their unique system of classic clothing. Please apply to Anne Stanton 493 8167.

NEW YORK CITY - 1985

IBM ANALYST/PROGRAMMERS TO \$55,000 p.a.

IBM MVS COBOL CICS IDMS (ADS-ONLINE)

Our client, one of the most prestigious and successful stock-broking and financial companies in the world, has a need for some twenty Analyst/Programmers to assist them in their 1985 development programs.

Successful candidates will work in their luxury office accommodation in lower Manhattan, initially on a 12 month assignment.

Skills will ideally include a strong IBM background, but some opportunities will exist for candidates with strong IDMS knowledge in an ICL environment. Good analysis, design and programming experience is essential, preferably in a financial or brokerage environment.*

Our client will conduct interviews in London during late March, with start dates up to June 1985.

Successful candidates will receive a full family relocation package and all necessary assistance and advice on moving to the United States.

For more information on these exclusive opportunities, please call Mary Coleman NOW or send your detailed resume to us at Computer People International, 68 St. Martin's Lane, London WC2.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU.

*Opportunities will also exist for experienced IDMS DBAs and MVS/CICS Systems Programmers.

VI Computer People International
The Market Leaders.

Chief Executive

- NEWCASTLE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE -

circa £25,000 Newcastle upon Tyne

Newcastle Technology Centre is a major new initiative sponsored by Newcastle University, Newcastle and Sunderland Polytechnics and local authorities in Tyne and Wear, to assist industry in the North East to develop more competitive products and processes and to promote the take-up of new technology in association with other agencies. The Chief Executive will establish and manage the Centre, leading a small specialist team to promote and project manage the effective transfer of technology. The post demands imaginative flair tempered with sound business judgement to identify new commercial opportunities. An essential requirement is the ability to work with and develop confidence within companies and the academic community.

Applicants should be graduates in a technological discipline with considerable general management experience, and have a good appreciation of marketing, product development, commercial negotiations and intellectual property issues.

The salary will be circa £25,000 per annum with a benefits package commensurate with age and experience, plus assistance with removal expenses. Application forms, to be returned by 28th February 1985, are obtainable from:

Charles Monck, Newcastle Technology Centre, The University, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU or by telephoning Tyne-side (091) 487 8941.

A new regional initiative to mobilise technology in the North East

ELECTROLOCATION I AM MY COMPANY

I was one of the first in the field, marketing a high technology product and associated services.

I now require a salesperson to sell that product, promote the service and use his/her energy and intelligence to develop new business.

Drive and enthusiasm goes without saying. Young, bright, ambitious and independent, preferable. Interest in engineering or related fields helpful, car driver essential.

You will be paid a basic salary plus generous commission and if you think you can sell, telephone me for an interview and convince me you can contribute to my Company's success.

GRAHAM MARR 01-879 3550 (No Agencies)

TELEX OPERATOR

Expanding Greek Shipping Company seeks Telex Operator with shipping experience.

Please apply in writing giving full details to:

Personnel Manager,
Troodos Shipping and Trading Ltd,
Stock Exchange Tower,
Old Broad Street,
London EC2 1HH.

General Appointments

COMPUTING - ON GOING CAREERS

SYSTEMS BUSINESS ANALYST PROGRAMMERS

W. LONDON TO £14 1/2K

The leading international banking corporation seeks to recruit two computer professionals for systems/business analyst positions. The successful candidates will be involved in the development and support of a range of systems for the corporation. Successful applicants will be offered a competitive salary, together with a range of company benefits including a pension scheme and a company car. Ref: TX 1045

BUSINESS ANALYST/TEAM LEADER

HERTS. Circa £15K

One of the leading international banking corporations is looking to recruit a Business Analyst/Team Leader. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development and support of a range of systems for the corporation. Successful applicants will be offered a competitive salary, together with a range of company benefits including a pension scheme and a company car. Ref: TX 1045

PROJECT LEADERS MIDDX. (ANY MACHINE)

Circa £15K

Due to expansion a leading international banking corporation is looking to recruit two project leaders. The successful candidates will be responsible for the development and support of a range of systems for the corporation. Successful applicants will be offered a competitive salary, together with a range of company benefits including a pension scheme and a company car. Ref: TX 1045

ANY DEC BERKSHIRE ANALYST/PROGRAMMERS

£10-£13K + BENEFITS

This major computer business currently requires a number of Senior Analyst/Programmers to work in the Systems Development Division. You will be working in a project team, involved in a wide range of application areas. Successful applicants will be offered a competitive salary, together with a range of company benefits including a pension scheme and a company car. Ref: TX 1045

BANKING CONSULTANTS C. LONDON PROJECT MANAGER

TO £24,000

The leading international banking corporation seeks to recruit two computer professionals for consultancy/project management positions. The successful candidates will be involved in the development and support of a range of systems for the corporation. Successful applicants will be offered a competitive salary, together with a range of company benefits including a pension scheme and a company car. Ref: TX 1045

BANKING BUSINESS C. LONDON ANALYST (PACKAGE CONSULTANTS)

£20,000 + Banking Benefits

To continue to provide a professional and efficient service, the leading international banking corporation is looking to recruit two computer professionals for consultancy/project management positions. The successful candidates will be involved in the development and support of a range of systems for the corporation. Successful applicants will be offered a competitive salary, together with a range of company benefits including a pension scheme and a company car. Ref: TX 1045

DEVELOPMENT HERTFORDSHIRE MANAGER

TO £20K + Car + Bonus

A leading international banking corporation has just created a new position for a Development Manager. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development and support of a range of systems for the corporation. Successful applicants will be offered a competitive salary, together with a range of company benefits including a pension scheme and a company car. Ref: TX 1045

DATA PROCESSING C. LONDON CONSULTANTS

TO £28K + Car

This leading worldwide management consultancy currently seeks additional senior computer professionals. Successful applicants will be offered a competitive salary, together with a range of company benefits including a pension scheme and a company car. Ref: TX 1045



RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS 24 hrs (10 lines) 01-437 5994 01-439 8302 Evenings & Weekends 01-924 0597 01-274 0940

21 CORK STREET, LONDON W1X 1HB. BUSINESS PEOPLE IN THE PEOPLE BUSINESS

New Life Company

NEW LIFE STYLE

We are concerned with the poor public image that insurance selling faces today. And we aim to do something about it.

Helping people and businesses to plan their financial security through insurance and investment is one of the most valuable services a professional can provide.

Our approach to the financial services market is radical. We are bringing a fresh, professional and simple-to-understand approach to insurance and investment in this country.

Our specially developed training programme is intensive. You'll need to be a career orientated person with a high level of integrity, commitment and communications skills to survive our stringent selection procedures.

Our parentage is superlative - Aetna Life and Casualty, the world's largest publicly quoted insurance group, with assets of more than \$47 billion, have joined forces with Samuel Montagu and Co., one of the city's leading international merchant banks, to form Aetna Montagu Life Insurance Co. Ltd.

Your current profession may not be in either sales or life insurance. But if you have high career ideals and the energy and dedication we require, you could benefit from our attractive remuneration package. We offer a basic salary of around £12,000 plus a bonus scheme and comprehensive fringe benefits.

We need your skills and integrity to make insurance selling a respected profession...



The first step is easy. The rest will depend on your ability to meet our offer of a challenging but rewarding career. If you think you can meet our standards, then send your CV to: John Bird, Sales Manager, Aetna Montagu Life Insurance Co. Ltd., 401 St. John Street, London EC1V 4QE. Alternatively telephone 01-837 6494.

DISTRICT GENERAL MANAGER

NORTHALLERTON HEALTH AUTHORITY

The Northallerton Health Authority is seeking a District General Manager to lead its organisation.

New arrangements are being established following a Government Inquiry into NHS management. The major objective is to deploy available resources to optimum effect in support of health and patient care. The District General Manager will be personally accountable to the Health Authority for the implementation of plans and the management of existing resources in the most effective way, and will lead the top management team in the organisation.

The District Health Authority is currently appraising its major strategies for the delivery of health services. Priority will need to be given to improving care for the elderly, the mentally ill and the mentally handicapped as well as exploiting to the full advances in modern acute medicine. This represents one of the most exciting challenges in management today.



The Northallerton District comprises the central and western parts of North Yorkshire which are completely rural and include part of the Yorkshire Dales, and is based on the County town of Northallerton. The population of the District is about 110,000 and the current revenue allocation is £11.5m. The Authority is planning the complete redevelopment of Frisgar Hospital and phase 1a capital cost of about £5m started on site in 1984.

Candidates will need to possess high qualities of Leadership, be able to demonstrate a proven record of successful management in a large organisation and have the ability to manage change and control large budgets. Their current salary will be over £20,000. Initially the appointment will be for a fixed period of three to five years and will be extendable thereafter by mutual agreement. Remuneration and conditions of service will be negotiable subject to experience.

Detailed applications should be submitted to the Chairman, Benet Ormerod Esq, 1 Monksgarth, Seaton, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL10 6EB by 22 February 1985. They should be marked "In Confidence - District General Manager Appointment". Further particulars will be sent on request.

Working for a large company has its drawbacks - you can become just another number. At Apollo Computer life is certainly different. We're young, lively, dynamic and really growing. That means we can offer probably the most exciting and challenging positions for sales professionals in the computer industry today with plenty of scope for career advancement. In fact we're looking for people who have the potential to develop with Apollo.

sales

O.T.E. c. £35,000 p.a.

Positions are available throughout the country for Territory Sales Executives and Account Managers with proven sales skills, be strongly motivated and possess an outstanding track record of selling into the technical computer marketplace.

In return Apollo offers a good basic salary with generous bonuses, unlimited earning potential and an excellent benefits package which includes quality car, free family medical insurance and share participation schemes.

So, if you want the challenge of joining a company which is big enough to make your ambitions yet small enough to recognise individual contribution, telephone Alan Housley on 061 962 0222 during office hours or weekday evenings between 7.00 p.m. and 9.00 p.m. on 0625 520167. Alternatively, write to:

Alan Housley,
Apollo Computer (UK) Ltd.,
Dunham House, Cross Street,
Sale, MANCHESTER M23 1HL.
Tel: 061 962 0222

apollo is the company, domain is the product.

INDUSTRIAL ARTISTS RECRUITMENT

For those and other vacancies please telephone Ann Adridge on (0453) 57141 or in the evenings on (0452) 70701

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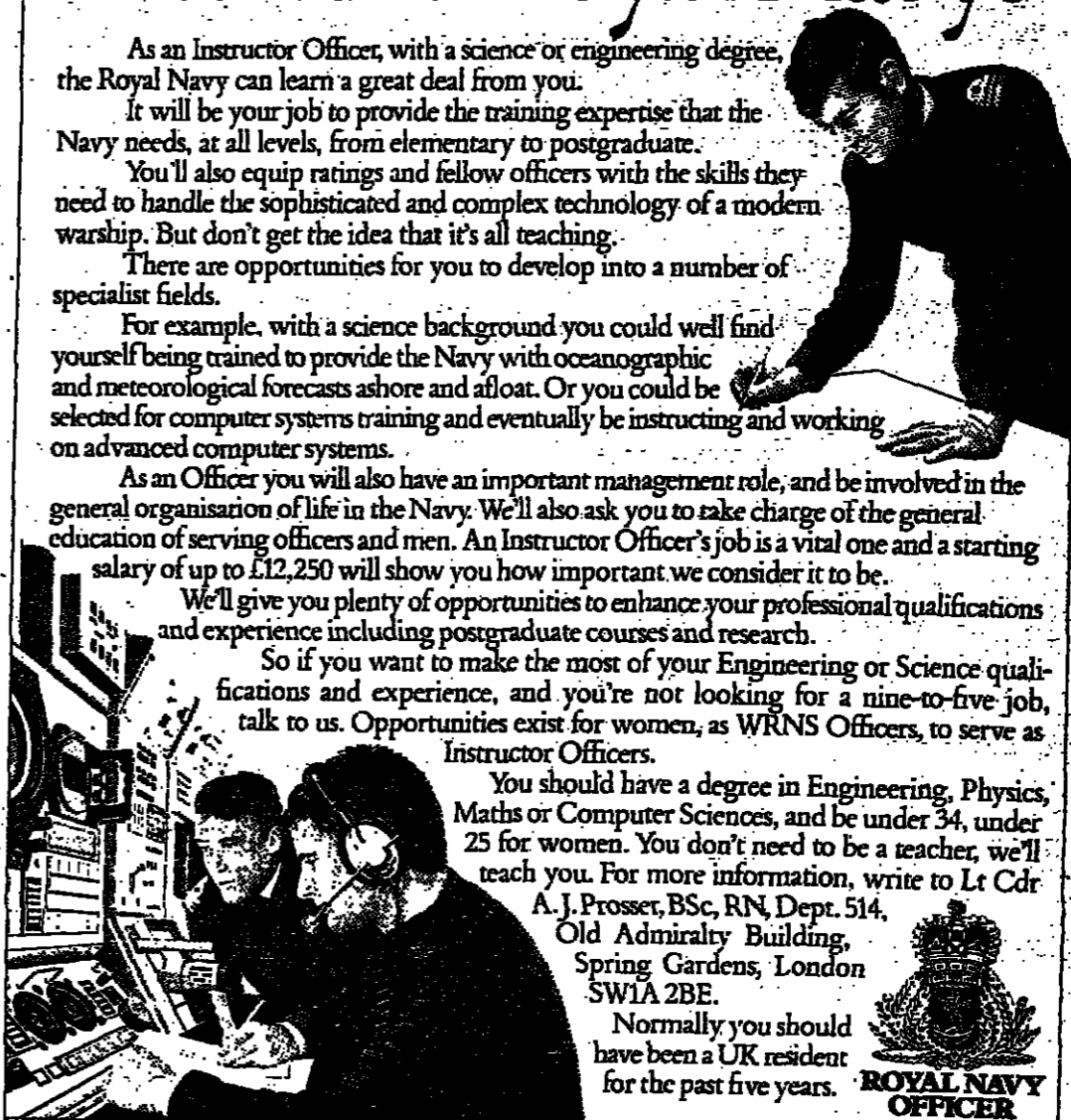
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Involvement in recognised trade organisations and general representation of the company at top professional levels are important aspects of this demanding post. This is a senior management appointment, and a long-term commitment to the aims of the company is essential. Regular job-jumpers need not waste our time.

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HORIZONS

The Times guide to career development

How to manage promotion

How do you make the transition from colleague to boss? A change of this kind can bring problems, whether you are being promoted in the management hierarchy or on to the first rung of the ladder, like the senior secretary who finds herself moving into management as a result of new technology, yet lacks the appropriate training and experience.

The switch from a passive to an active role demands a different set of qualities: the ability to influence people, to accept mounting responsibility without flustering and to anticipate, knowing that your activities today will affect what you, and others, do tomorrow.

Few companies provide training, and many people find difficulty in developing such qualities unaided. As one secretary of 20 years' experience and with good organizing skills, explained six months after her company had encouraged her into a more positive job: "It was not easy to push myself to do it, and although the water is getting shallower, I'm still floundering."

For others who are floundering, or whose management style is not getting the best results, a personal development course could provide the missing ingredients: confidence, motivation, authority, effective communication.

During her own progress to senior management at Unilever, Eleanor Macdonald realized that many people needed training to draw out their potential. In 1969 she left to set up her own programme, EM Courses, to which many leading organizations send their staff.

One is a four-day, residential course in Personal Effectiveness, designed to widen the perspective of men and women from junior to

Sally Watts offers some tips on climbing the promotion ladder

middle management. This is achieved by starting at the vital point: yourself, with each delegate discovering his or her aptitudes and weaknesses and how to handle these, in order, first, to cope with confidence and then to move forward.

You learn how to manage situations, from addressing an audience to resolving a business problem or making a presentation with style and are encouraged to think positively, perceive opportunities and to find your own role in today's changing business patterns.

Eleanor Macdonald says: "It's not just a case of following the job description. How you interpret the



bits that are not laid down in black and white will show you up as positive or uncertain, and your manner also will tell people whether they should have confidence in you."

Work relationships often become obstacles, so are necessarily part of a development course. "Your attitude today affects your relationships tomorrow, so don't make enemies or be retaliatory," she says. "Think instead how to win people over."

One woman on the course was in difficulties at work because she lacked authority, as she found after being put in charge of her former colleagues. She was advised to examine the function of each one, decide what she expected of them and what they expected of their job, then to discuss this with each of them - but always remembering that she was the person in charge.

The key to the course is perception - of yourself, of others, of situations. According to Miss Macdonald, many managers should look more closely at what goes on around them. At the next office meeting, observe how people get on with each other. How competent and assured is the person in charge? Are there barely concealed differences between him and some staff members? Why is this?

At the end of the course, delegates are given a 30-minute tape reminding them of the essentials, and receiving Eleanor Macdonald's maxim: "Management is about making things happen."

The next Personal Effectiveness course is from February 12 to 15 at Sundridge Park Management Centre, Bromley, Kent. Inquiries to EM Courses, 4 Mapledale Avenue, Croydon CR0 5TA. Telephone (01) 654 4659.

Hopeful signs on the graduate job front

The slump in vacancies which has crippled graduate recruitment throughout the early 1980s seems to be over. In their most optimistic report of the decade, the three bodies primarily responsible for graduate employment - SCOEG (the Standing Conference of Employers of Graduates), AGCAS (the Association of Graduate Advisory Services) and the Central Services Unit - revealed last month that employment prospects for graduates are better than at any time in the past four years.

The report highlights the fact that in some sectors the demand for degree-holders is 20 per cent higher than in 1984. Generally the demand for graduates of any subject has in particular there is a big growth in demand for degree-holders in computer-related activities. A growing number of small businesses is seeking graduates; many such firms are making their initial entry to the Milk Round.

For the first time in two decades, there will be only a marginal increase in the number of new graduates entering the employment market, with the numbers, 66,000, about the same as in 1984. The number of last year's graduates still looking for work is also

NEWSROUND

down on the previous year. In one area, however, the reduction has not been welcome. The shortage of graduates in electronics continues to be a cause of great concern; it is one of the main factors why Britain has failed to exploit fully the possibilities of new technology.

The recession is still affecting other areas of work, as last month's sharp rise in unemployment showed. Londoners without a paid job, however, may take comfort from the welcome return of *London Work Out*, the free newspaper for the unemployed published by a group of journalists on the dole.

The new issue contains articles on starting cooperatives, claiming supplementary benefits, and Capital Radio's Jobmate scheme, in addition to letters, articles and opinions from a wide range of unemployed people. Anyone wanting a copy should contact *London Work Out* at 9 Poland Street, London W1 (tel: 01-4393043).

Simon Walsh reports: The Open University is threatened with "major

academic damage" unless the Government changes its mind over the grant levels indicated last year. OU Vice-Chancellor Dr Hoadley offered this grim forecast at a press conference in London last week, using the announcement of the OU's new graduates to criticize the level of state funding, as he did in 1984.

He said: "We may have to reduce not only the quality but also the number of courses we offer, and we may have to reduce our student numbers. We have reduced the cost of course materials, and we have reduced our staffing levels substantially. Not only is our teaching suffering as a result, but also our research."

Other news from the OU is encouraging. Applications are being attracted from a widening social spectrum: Forty four per cent of the OU's entrants now have less than two A-levels, and 50 per cent come from "blue-collar" families. At the same time, the OU is successfully branching into new initiatives. These include the programme of Continuing Education courses, most notably on microprocessors and their application, community education courses, and the new distance-learning programme in management training.

General Appointments

GRADUATE SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS

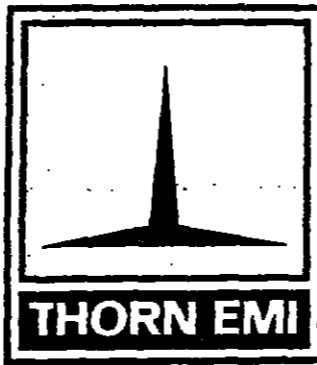
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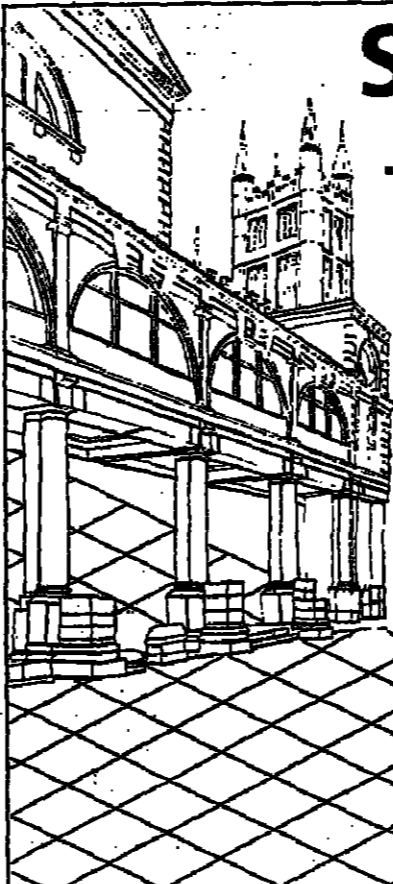
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Contact our Advising Consultant, Anthony Barry (01-336 8144) 30-32 Southampton Street, Covent Garden, London WC2E 7HE



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Praxis is a software engineering company, founded in 1983 to provide high quality software development services to computer manufacturers and other high technology industry. In a relatively short time we have earned a national reputation based on our commitment to using the best available formal methods, with an emphasis on quality throughout every business activity. Continued growth has led to exceptional opportunities for senior software engineers who possess top class technical skills and the ability and versatility to undertake project management and technical consultancy roles. Our business spans IPSE, database systems, communications, compilers, knowledge engineering and end-user applications.

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WEDDINGS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS AND IN MEMORIAM. THE TIMES... WEDDINGS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS AND IN MEMORIAM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS. HILDA GRACE BOLAND DECEASED... ANNOUNCEMENTS.

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS. ISLANDS IN THE SUN... HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS.

PERSONAL COLUMNS. HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS... PERSONAL COLUMNS.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS. BLUTHNER... MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.

QUEENSGATE SW7. Lovely views over... QUEENSGATE SW7.

GEORGE KNIGHT & PARTNERS. The Leading Agents... GEORGE KNIGHT & PARTNERS.

KEITH CARDALIN GROVES. Beautiful... KEITH CARDALIN GROVES.

BIRTHS. BOWDEN... BIRTHS.

TO GIVE HOPE... TO GIVE HOPE.

DISCOUNTED FARES. JOYBURG... DISCOUNTED FARES.

SUNWORLD TRAVEL (est 1969). 69 South St... SUNWORLD TRAVEL (est 1969).

WANTED. CHELSEA & FULHAM... WANTED.

WANTED. CHELSEA & FULHAM... WANTED.

WANTED. CHELSEA & FULHAM... WANTED.

WANTED. CHELSEA & FULHAM... WANTED.

BIRTHS. BOWDEN... BIRTHS.

DISCOUNTED FARES. JOYBURG... DISCOUNTED FARES.

DISCOUNTED FARES. JOYBURG... DISCOUNTED FARES.

FEB CHALET HOLIDAYS FROM £135. Save up to £101 on 9th February... FEB CHALET HOLIDAYS FROM £135.

WANTED. CHELSEA & FULHAM... WANTED.

WANTED. CHELSEA & FULHAM... WANTED.

WANTED. CHELSEA & FULHAM... WANTED.

WANTED. CHELSEA & FULHAM... WANTED.

DEATHS. BLOOD, ISABEL GARDNER... DEATHS.

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WANTED. CHELSEA & FULHAM... WANTED.

WANTED. CHELSEA & FULHAM... WANTED.

Macmillan Cancer Relief fund. Give money to Cancer Relief and replace pain, anxiety and despair with calm and hope.

You could send your child to public school for only 34% of the fees. Send to The Equitable Life.

Clubair GIVE AWAY FARES. SYDNEY £238, AUCKLAND 278, JOYBURG 278, BANGKOK 185, SINGAPORE 200, DELHI 237, NARBI 237, CAIRO 135, NEW YORK 222, TORONTO 188.

RESISTA CARPETS SALE. SUPER MERRALON VELVET, PLAIN SHABDES, WOOL, YD. VARIOUS QUALITIES & PRICES FROM STOCK.

Champagne. The ultimate in style! Send your Valentine a bottle of real French Champagne.

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Today's television and radio programmes

Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC 1 TV-am section listing programmes from 6.30 to 11.55, including news, sport, and entertainment.

BBC 2 and CHANNEL 4 sections listing programmes from 6.55 to 12.30, including documentaries and news.

CHOICE and Radio 4 sections listing programmes from 6.55 to 12.30, including news, sport, and music.

Radio 2 and Radio 1 sections listing programmes from 6.00 to 12.30, including music and entertainment.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

Regional television variations for Tyne Tees, Central, Yorkshire, Anglia, and Gramplan, listing local news and programmes.

Entertainments

Entertainment listings for Opera & Ballet, Concerts, and Theatres, including venue names and showtimes.

continued on page 34

Molesworth protesters threaten another Greenham



Soldiers add coils of razor wire to the barrier while a nuclear protester carries on gardening in the camp (Photographs: Bill Warhurst).

Continued from page 1
ary and construction has started on a £3 million permanent fence inside it. Sixty-four cruise missiles are due to arrive at Molesworth in 1988.

but 100 British citizens, most of them Quakers with a long tradition of honorable protest against the weapons of war? Mr Heseltine arrived at RAF Molesworth by helicopter wearing a camouflage jacket and black boots and disclosed that the operation had been planned since November 21.

outside the base were untouched by the operation. Throughout the day the landscape surrounding the base took on the air of a wartime field of operations. Roads were blocked, traffic rerouted and convoys of Army vehicles rumbled through villages and narrow country lanes.

Royal yacht offered for sales drive

The Queen has offered the Royal yacht Britannia to British exporters so that they can stage a sales drive in Portugal. (John Lawless writes).

MacGregor to 'stay on' after strike ends

Continued from page 1
pected to become vacant before Mr MacGregor's contract expires, although no date has been set for Mr James Cowan's departure, and that of the board member responsible for finance, a position to which Mr Brian Harrison has been reappointed until May, 1986.

Letter from Sidon
Watching eyes in a place of fear

It was one of those bright, chill mornings that follow storms on the Mediterranean coast. The streets of Sidon were still puddled with the overnight rain. Jumping across the flooded pavement to the newsstand, I almost failed to notice the young man outside the door of the barber shop. He had a lean, pale face and brown hair with just the ghost of a moustache.

Today's events
Royal engagements
The Duke of Edinburgh visits Comberton Village College near Cambridge, 9.55, and later attends an army board dinner at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, 8.15.

reception to mark the opening of the Elizabeth Frink exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, 7.

The Duchess of Kent, as patron, visits Helen House, Oxford, 11.30.

New exhibition
The Times 1785-1985 Bicentenary exhibition: The Herbert Read Gallery, Canterbury College of Art, New Dover Rd, Canterbury; Mon to Fri 10 to 7 (ends Feb 15).

New books - paperback
The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week: FICTION Seven Suspects, by Michael Innes (Penguin, £1.95)

Weather
Troughs of low pressure will move NE over S and W areas while a SE airflow is maintained over N and E parts.

Collins Dictionaries Times Crossword Championship, 1985

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,655. A crossword puzzle grid with numbers and some filled-in letters.

COMPETITORS may qualify by correctly solving and submitting this puzzle. They should complete the puzzle and entry form and post it with entry fee of £2 and stamped and addressed envelope by first-class mail to Collins Dictionaries.

Roads
Wales and West: A483: Temporary signals between Ruyton and Oswestry at Newbridge, Clwyd, 24 hrs a day.

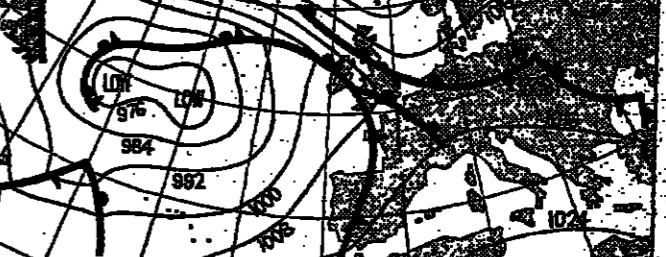
Anniversaries
Births: Saint Thomas More (canonized 1935), London, 1478; Charles Dickens, Portsmouth, 1812.

The pound
Bank Buys Bank Sells
Australia \$ 1.475 1.495
Austria Sch 26.10 26.10

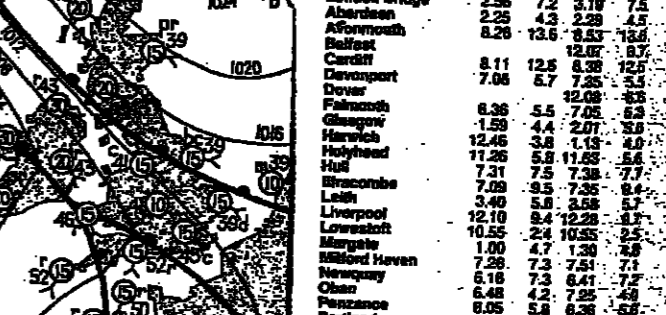
Snow reports
Depth (cm) Conditions Off Flume to Weather (5 pm)
Andermat 40 1700 good varied fair snow 4

The papers
The Daily Star, commenting on today's meeting of the miners' executive, says: "They know, that, sooner or later, they will have to discuss the vexed question of unproductive pits."

Portfolio
Portfolio - just to play
Monday-Saturday record your daily Portfolio total. Add these together to determine your weekly Portfolio total.



High tides
LONDON
London Bridge AM FT PW HT
2:20 12:58 12:10 12:10



Lighting-up time
London
London 5.21 pm to 6.58 am
Edinburgh 5.29 pm to 7.34 am

Around Britain
EAST COAST
Scarborough - 7 45 Cloudy
Bridlington - 7 45 Cloudy

Abroad
MEDIAN: c. cloud; d. drizzle; f. fog; g. fog; r. rain; s. snow; w. wind.